

Sarah Pitre (l) and Jenny Bragdon
of the blog Forever Young Adult

a drink-le in time

ENDLESS LOVE

BY MELANIE HAUPT P. 26

NEWS THE NEW COURTHOUSE PLAN FOOD BEHOLD! MEATS OF STRENGTH SCREENS POP AND GAWK
MUSIC TORTILLA FACTORY COOKS UP URBAN TEJANO

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JOHN ANDERSON

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PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765

VIOLATED BY CITY

Dear Editor,

Re: "Tone Deaf" [News, Dec. 3]: I would like to comment on your story and share my experiences.

I am a person with epilepsy who was previously given a ticket by an Austin Police officer called to the scene of an intersection near Highland Mall.

Another citizen witnessed me having a seizure and decided to call the police, because during the course of that seizure, I attempted to jaywalk in my semiconscious state.

When he arrived at the scene, however, rather than providing first aid, the cop ticketed me. I was at fault for having epilepsy!

The city also sold my name and contact information out to companies for a quick buck.

Although I do not own a car, was not driving at the time of the incident, and there is no way I legally can drive a vehicle, the city gave auto insurance agencies and other similar companies access to my contact information!

I felt violated by the city. When I appeared before the City Council judicial committee to attempt to obtain retribution for this mistreatment and ask for the firing of the police chief (incidentally where I had another seizure), they did not do anything.

APD's abuse of people with disabilities goes well beyond the deaf community.

Please continue investigating this. I want accountability and justice. I do want APD leadership fired.

Robin Orlowski

BIOFUELS CAN SAVE US

Dear Editor,

If we can use biofuels to heat and power our homes, businesses, and cities, then why aren't we? Paper, wood, manure, and wastewater can all be used for fuel pellets or biogas. We can end the contamination of our groundwater, waterways, and oceans using a renewable, sustainable source that is less polluting than fossil fuels. We can make it no longer our national interest to be involved in the Middle East and its wars and conflicts. Biofuels can save our environment and our children from being endlessly tossed on the pyre of war.

Gianmarco Conegliano

ABOUT TIME DADT REPEALED

Dear Editor,

Don't Ask, Don't Tell was a particularly deceptive and cruel policy to perpetuate upon the gay men and women serving in the U.S. military between 1993 and 2010.

"PAGE TWO" IS ON VACATION.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2010

AN INCOMPLETE AND SUBJECTIVE LOOK AT THE YEAR IN CRAZY

PART THE FIRST

JAN. 14: UNHAPPY WITH DEMOCRATS, SHARRON ANGLE SUGGESTS "2ND AMENDMENT REMEDIES" MIGHT BE NEEDED.

YOU'LL PRY MY RIGHT TO BE REFUSED HEALTH CARE FROM MY COLD DEAD FINGERS!

JAN. 21: SUPREME COURT HANDS DEMOCRACY OVER TO HIGHEST BIDDER.

IF CORPORATIONS ARE NOT FREE TO MAKE UNLIMITED ANONYMOUS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS--

--THEN NONE OF US ARE TRULY FREE!

JAN. 25: JAMES O'KEEFE ARRESTED TRYING TO WIRE-TAP A SENATOR'S OFFICE.

WHAT PART OF "CITIZEN JOURNALISM" DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

FEB. 16: DICK CHENEY CONFESSES:

"I WAS A BIG SUPPORTER OF WATER-BOARDING!"

INEXPLICABLY, NO PROSECUTION ENSUES.

FEB. 25: NOT-AT-ALL CRAZY RIGHT-WINGERS SAY MISSILE DEFENSE LOGO PROVES OBAMA'S SUBMISSION TO SHARIA.

HE IS UNDERMINING AMERICA THROUGH GRAPHIC DESIGN!

MAR. 21: CONGRESS PASSES MODEST HEALTH CARE REFORM; CONSERVATIVE MELTDOWN ENSUES.

SOCIALISM! DEATH PANELS!

YARGLE BARGLE BLARGH!

APRIL 7: OBAMA AUTHORIZES ASSASSINATION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN ACCUSED OF TERRORISM.

EXECUTIVE OVERREACH IS OKAY IF YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT!

APRIL 14: NOT-AT-ALL CRAZY RIGHT-WINGERS FIND ANOTHER ADMINISTRATION LOGO WITH HIDDEN MUSLIM SYMBOLS!

WHERE WILL THIS GRAPHIC SUBVERSION END?

Nuclear Security Summit?

APRIL 15: TEA PARTIERS ACROSS COUNTRY GATHER TO DENOUNCE THEIR TAX BURDEN--

--WHICH, FOR MOST, WENT DOWN UNDER OBAMA.

WHUT?

APRIL 20: NOT-AT-ALL RACIST ARIZONA HOUSE VOTES FOR PROVISION REQUIRING OBAMA TO SHOW BIRTH CERTIFICATE BEFORE 2012 ELECTION.

WE JUST WANT TO BE SURE HE'S NOT CANADIAN!

MAY 14: IN WAKE OF B.P. OIL SPILL, HALEY BARBOUR ENCOURAGES TOURISTS TO "ENJOY THE BEACH!"

IT'S PRACTICALLY PRISTINE, IF YOU IGNORE THE TARBALLS & ALL THE DEAD FISH!

MAY 21: ADMINISTRATION WINS RIGHT TO DETAIN PEOPLE WITHOUT HABEAS.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

BEATS ME!

JUNE 6: RUSH LIMBAUGH TRADITIONALLY MARRIES FOR FOURTH TIME.

THANK GOODNESS THIS SACRED INSTITUTION HAS NOT BEEN SULLIED BY VILE HOMOSEXUALS!

SUCH AS MY WEDDING SINGER, ELTON JOHN.

JUNE 17: REP. BARTON APOLOGIZES TO B.P.

I DON'T KNOW HOW OUR OCEAN GOT IN THE WAY OF YOUR OIL!

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE US?

JUNE 18: MICHELE BACHMAN REFUSES TO FILL OUT CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED CENSUS.

IT'S A SOCIALIST PLOT--TO FIND OUT HOW MANY TOILETS I HAVE!

NEXT: MORE CRAZY!

More sinister than the statement, "By not asking we are leaving you in peace as a respected, appreciated soldier," DADT said to particular individuals -- whose most beneficial significance to their country and themselves would be "to tell," to live openly and honestly -- "You are a shameful creature, your existence is worthless, we will dispose of you when we know who you are."

John McCain, immediately after the U.S. Senate repealed DADT (65-31), exclaimed there would be extremely dire consequences. And it is a bitter pill for those consumed with hatred to be prohibited from actively exercising retaliation against their targeted group for the crime of existing.

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Holiday Schedule

The *Chronicle* will observe the following holiday schedule:

Issues dated Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will be distributed on their regular weekdays: Thursday, Dec. 23 (today), and Thursday, Dec. 30.

The *Chronicle* offices will be closed Thursdays and Fridays, Dec. 23 and 24 and Dec. 30 and 31.

We will resume regular business hours on Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

Happy holidays to all!

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

LAST WEEK'S VINTAGE AD!

OAT WILLIE'S

once occupied Sagra Trattoria's current location at 1610 San Antonio. Now, Oat Willie's has three locations: on East Oltorf, West 29th, and Burnet Road. This ad ran in our fourth issue, dated Dec. 11, 1981.

CAN YOU FIND THE VINTAGE AD?

KRISTI MUNLEE found last week's vintage ad and got her name in the paper! KRISTI MUNLEE has also been entered in a bigger, end-of-the-year drawing for a PRIZE GRAB BAG! If you want a chance to be more like KRISTI, just locate the vintage ad in the pages of this issue and go to austinchronicle.com/contests.

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▼ South Branch Location Offers ▼



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▼ Offers For Both Locations ▼



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NEW YEARS DAY

The impact of repealing DADT is scarcely comprehensible. It retroactively exonerates every gay man and woman who served in our country's armed services since the miraculous Revolutionary War, through those wars of the 20th century, until this very day in the various theatres across the globe, whether or not they survived that service intact or at all. It bestows upon those harassed persons full honor as patriots and unalienable rights as citizens of the United States of America.

My goodness! Is that the fragrance of "Hope and Change" upon the winter wind of history?

This letter took quite a different form than its first draft, in which I took to task the pastor Fred Phelps Sr. However, I realized that Mr. Phelps, protesting military funerals and gay rights, parades with his slogan (and website) "God Hates Fags," probably did more than any other individual to bring Congress to its senses. So I appreciate his horrendous and constant hostility.

Sincerely,
Kenney C. Kennedy

STEALING BIRTHRIGHTS

Dear Editor,

I'm a little peeved at Gretchen Carlson, Bill O'Reilly, and other Christian insurgents against the war on Christmas. It's not that I think they're wrong; they're just not doing quite enough. Secular forces have long sought to redact Christ from his own birth celebration, just not in the places we've all been looking. I beg all of you to fear not the benign, secular slogans of "Happy Holidays"

and instead turn your attention to more hidden and therefore more insidious forms of secular approach: Santa, the Christmas tree, and other such popish frippery. Remember that yule logs, mistletoe, and the imbibing of alcohol are only associated with Christmas because they were the winter traditions of the last European pagans to Christianize. If we're all so serious about resisting the war on Christmas, perhaps we should take a page from the Protestant reformers who banished the Dutch deity Sinterklaas from England, replacing him with the Christ Child (or "Christkindl," which, when the pagans reinstated Santa much later, explains the English corruption "Kris Kringle").

CONTINUED ON P.8



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Reader COMMENT of the Week

Re: The Statesman's stance on the
WikiLeaks story:

"Thanks for Michael King's 'Point Austin: Call Them Irresponsible.' I had read the Dec. 14 Austin American-Statesman editorial and was angered by what I thought was the AAS' irresponsibility and hypocrisy, but failed to write the Statesman expressing my disappointment in them.

"One does not want to descend into monotonic nag. Spans of silence help punctuate the criticism, like blinking warning lights.

"Yet the Dec. 14 error was so blatant, it should not have been ignored; King did so much better than I could ever have hoped to do. Thanks again. It would be so nice if Austin had a daily worthy of the city." — gwbrnstad

"Point Austin: Call Them Irresponsible,"
News, Dec. 17

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POSTMARKS CONTINUED FROM P.6

Or take James I of England, who demanded church attendance on Christmas. Or the American Puritans, the descendants of the Mayflower, who actually outlawed Christmas. Forget that James I was almost blown up in his own parliament or that the Puritan castigation of Christmas is an ironic counter-statement to the principles of religious freedom we've imbued them with posthumously. The point, as Glenn Beck would agree, is to look deep (but not too deep!) and recognize how your Christian birthright, like your nation, is being stolen from you. The fact that you never before actually recognized or understood the specific nature of your birthright is, really, just a minor detail. Because, thank the Lord, Fox is here to explain it to you. And that's good news.

Benjamin Reed

Reader COMMENTS of the Week

Re: Minority presence on 11th Street:

"I understand that the neighborhood association presidents have their agendas to promote, but I take umbrage at the insinuations that 11th Street has no minorities living on it and that the 11th Street environment has basically removed small-business opportunities for minorities. I would encourage anyone wanting a model for how to treat East Austin right to take a look at East Village Lofts at the corner of Lydia and 11th Street.

"Minorities live here. I am Hispanic. My left-wall neighbor is Hispanic (and the property developer). The two condo units to my right are owned by Americans of African and Indian descent, respectively. We are minorities who proudly live on 11th Street and frequent the businesses in our neighborhood (Victory Grill, 11th Street Station, Zandunga, Modesty Hair Studio, Moxie, etc.), regardless of the race of the owners, because we love our side of town, recognize we are in the boat together, and want to prosper together.

"If you need an inspiring example of small-business opportunities for minorities, you need look no further than the parking lot of East Village Lofts. The Purple Bean is a food and coffee trailer owned and operated by a descendent of five generations of East Austin residents. It opened at East Village Lofts in August through the cooperation of Purple Bean owner LaValle Twibell and East Village Lofts realtor Blake Shanley.

"Rather than tear down the changes made on 11th Street, I invite naysayers to come visit East Village Lofts. Let's look at the environment created by non-minorities like Ms. Shanley who appreciate the history, diversity, and uniqueness of East Austin, and expand it. Let's look at the success of minorities like Mrs. Twibell, and ask what we can learn."

— edwardorodriguez

"12th of Never," News, Dec. 17

Re: The review of Tron: Legacy:

Tron: Legacy might be a three-star movie for Tron Suit Guy, but not for a discerning cineaste. M. Savlov strikes me as a cheerleader for Hollywood, easily swayed by large budgets and mainstream popularity (I've been wary of him ever since his 3.5-star review of Blues Brothers 2000), so it's no surprise his review of this movie would fail to note the stilted script and formulaic quality of this reboot to the groundbreaking Tron of 1982. The original was novel in its use of technology without losing sight of the humans in its midst, yet the redux comes off as a pastiche of tropes with "Tron" stamped on it. Beefcake Garrett Hedlund never emotes, Michael Sheen tries to channel Fifth Element and fails, Jeff Bridges seems disconnected from ... everything, and his young doppelgänger often struck me as having fallen into the uncanny valley. Olivia Wilde (Quorra) was great, and I look forward to seeing more of her work, and Daft Punk's scoring couldn't have been more inspired, so there's that.

"Tron: Legacy is a two-star film – and it's odd to write a letter just to demote a reviewed film by only one star, but given that my anticipation of this sequel dates back to when I was 12, I feel that it's warranted.

"Simply put, unless you're a Tron fanatic and must see it (like me), wait for the rental."

– Space Moose

Film Listings, Dec. 12

THE CHRONICLE 30TH NICLE THINGS THE HIGHS, THE LOWS, THE LISTS

A PERSONALS INVENTORY

The upcoming holidays are a great time to catch up with the Chronicle's 30th-year antics. We have a whole Web section devoted to the subject (austinchronicle.com/year30), so navigate there and kick back around the Yule log with some of our festive offerings:

- We're republishing the first year's issues online every two weeks – that's how often we published for the first seven years.

- We're running vintage ads from some of our original advertisers in the paper and challenging readers to spot the old ad. Weekly winners are entered in a drawing for a pile of prizes to be awarded at the publishing year's end.

- We're publishing lists of 30 notable (or laughable or lamentable) takes on the Chronicle's coverage, culture, and commentary from the past three decades and publishing them online.

The upcoming "Year 30" page, for instance, highlights a new feature the whole family might enjoy: "30 Personals, Messages, and Shots in the Dark," where you can peruse classics of the genre from the past three decades. Pour some Courvoisier, linger over Favorite Acid Stories, and reminisce about the Republican Cross-Dressers Poker Club as the year flickers to a close.

There's that, and more, on our website: austinchronicle.com/year30. ■

news

Headlines

- City Council's on ice until Jan. 13, after a not-so-silent night last week debating the controversial Spicewood Springs shaft site for **Water Treatment Plant No. 4**. See "City Hall Hustle," p.12.
- On Wednesday, City Manager **Marc Ott** announced that Abigail Smith, executive director of the Tompkins County SPCA in Ithaca, N.Y., is the "top candidate" to become Austin's chief animal services officer, pending a site visit to Ithaca by city staff. For more on all the candidates, see See "Animal Shelter's Next Top Dog?," p.16.
- We're huge! Texas will gain four new congressional seats under the latest apportionment released by the **U.S. Census Bureau** Dec. 21, bringing its total up to 36. Now it's up to the state Legislature — and possibly the courts, if it's anything like the last redistricting ruckus — to split up the seats. See "Census Could Cause Senseless Redistricting," p.18.
- The **Third Court of Appeals** ruled Tuesday that Travis County District Judge **Charlie Baird** should have recused himself from hearing a case brought by the relatives of executed inmate **Cameron Todd Willingham**, who are seeking to clear Willingham's name. Justice **David Puryear** dissented, saying that the Third Court had no jurisdiction to intervene. Read more about the case on the Newsdesk blog at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.
- Katz's Klozes** ... After 31 years on Sixth Street and 27 years as an open-all-hours diner, **Katz's Deli** will shut its doors Jan. 2. The firm filed for bankruptcy in July after owner Marc Katz's unsuccessful run for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor but has failed to keep up with its taxes.
- Nothing to see here A group of students from **Bryker Woods Elementary School** saw only a brief glimpse of justice in action Tuesday after their host, Third Court of Appeals Justice **Jan Patterson**, ushered the youngsters into a Third Court courtroom, where a **gay divorce case** happened to be under way. The judge and pupils settled in for, oh, two minutes, before Patterson gathered her charges and ushered them out of the courtroom.
- There was jubilation at the Dec. 18 Senate vote to repeal the discriminatory **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** policy which barred gays and lesbians from serving openly in the U.S. military. However, the celebrations were marred by the Senate's failure on the same day to bring the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (**DREAM**) Act to a vote.
- Thinking of buying yourself something energy-efficient for Christmas? On Dec. 20 the comptroller's office announced it has put \$18.5 million into the **Texas Appliance Mail-in Rebate Program** (\$10 million in unclaimed funds from earlier rebate programs and \$8.5 million in unused public sector energy efficiency funds.) Details at www.texaspowerfulmart.org/rebate.
- The CIA has announced that it has assembled a formal **WikiLeaks Task Force**, giving it the unfortunate acronym WTF.



JANA BIRCHUM

Marc Katz



JANA BIRCHUM

Shopper Naomi Lloyd has her eye on one of these handsome light fixtures at the Blue Genie Art Bazaar, an annual holiday gift-buying opportunity that runs through Christmas Eve at the Marchesa Hall & Theatre at Lincoln Village.

The Cloudy Crystal Ball

If you're wondering what the new Lege will do, look to its predecessors

BY MICHAEL KING

If you needed any additional seasonal foreboding heading into the new year, you might look no further than Harvey Kronberg's "On the Agenda" last week, in which the editor of online Capitol newsletter the Quorum Report cautiously addressed the dilemma faced by legislators hoping to find a way to balance the state budget while not simultaneously destroying the still fragile Texas economic recovery. "Yes, the economy is growing again," Kronberg told his Channel 8 audience, "but tax revenues are at a 2006 level despite the state's addition of close to a couple million new people since then."

"While the jobs picture is somewhat better here than in the rest of the country," he continued, "the Texas unemployment rate ticked up after an unusually bad jobs report. The big loss? Six thousand manufacturing jobs disappeared. The big gain? Government hired 7,000."

Kronberg is as middle-of-the-road as they come for political commentary and as such is a useful barometer of the current thinking among veteran Capitol hands about realistic 2011 legislative options. It's all well and good to campaign, in the popular clichés, against "waste and fraud" while

demanding that "government live within its means." But when it comes to putting together an actual biennial budget, Kronberg says, "serious lawmakers are keenly aware that the largest customer for private business in Texas is government — which includes the state, city, school districts, and more."

"They also know that the largest employer in Texas is government." That means when you slash government spending, you're inevitably slashing private business growth, and when you lay off public employees, you're inevitably undercutting consumer spending. "The kinds of budget cuts we are facing," Kronberg continues, "mean job losses for tens of thousands of public employees and teachers just when the economy is getting its legs back under it. That means fewer consumers buying goods and services."

Even setting aside the business stimulus (or in this case, de-stimulus) argument, Kronberg continues, there is the simpler reality that closing prisons, firing teachers, and cutting mental health care all have real consequences, and most directly at the local level. For example, he writes, "It means more

CONTINUED ON P.13

QUOTE of the WEEK



"Republican dreamkillers."

— Eliseo Medina of Service Employees International Union, describing the 41 senators who voted against the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act



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Naked City

► **AAAC SAYS ‘NO SCANNERS’** At its Dec. 14 meeting, the **Austin Airport Advisory Commission** voted 5-0 to recommend that City Council “oppose the installation of AITs” (advanced imaging technology, aka “body scanners”) at **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**, and also “oppose the practice of invasive body searching.” Though City Council has no authority over airline security at ABIA, the commission recommended that it communicate its opposition to the Transportation Security Administration and other federal authorities. The AAAC resolution cites nine reasons for opposing scanners: 1) insufficiently reviewed health risks, 2) potential privacy rights violations (especially for vulnerable persons), 3) airports using them have been ridiculed, 4) increase in security delays, 5) potential ineffectiveness, 6) possible violation of the Fourth Amendment, 7) city liability, 8) scanners have been tried and abandoned by other countries, and 9) other security methods (unspecified) are as effective. Not all cited reasons are equally coherent or precise, but they run the gamut of public complaints about the scanners, anticipated for installation in ABIA some time next year. In particular, the reasoning behind No. 3 – the fear of “derision, ridicule, [and] embarrassment” to policymakers or managers – would pretty much prohibit all official action of any kind. – *Michael King*

► **NOT JUST ANY OLD CELEBRATION** The city of Austin has announced its version of the **First Night** New Year’s Eve celebration – and it will be over well before the bell tolls midnight. After First Night’s organizers announced in September that they were taking 2010 off due to a lack of sponsors, City Manager **Marc Ott** stepped into the breach and declared that the city would ring in the new year for them. Redubbed **ANY** (short for Austin’s New Year), the celebration will be paid for out of the \$50,000 set aside as the city’s contribution to First Night. For context, the first First Night Austin, held in 2005, cost \$430,000; organizers had estimated that this year would take at least \$250,000 (see “First Night Austin,” The Arts, Oct. 8). The scaled-back ANY shindig will kick off at 5pm at Auditorium Shores, with performers including 2010 Austin Music Award winners Mother Falcon and First Night regulars Austin Bike Zoo. It’ll wrap up at 10:30pm after a fireworks display. Rumors that this will involve Ott running around Town Lake with sparklers in each hand have not been confirmed. – *Richard Whittaker*

► **RADIO RADIO** Over the weekend, the U.S. House and Senate approved the **Local Community Radio Act** – mandating the Federal Communications Commission to license thousands of new low-power (100 watt, noncommercial) FM stations. The law, when signed by President Obama, will repeal legislation that limited most LPFM stations to rural areas as large broadcasters claimed signal interference. Austin community radio activist **Jim Ellinger** lobbied hard in support of the bill – helping to persuade Sen. John Cornyn’s office to eliminate a “hold” – and the nonprofit Prometheus Radio Project called it “the first major legislative success for the growing movement for a more democratic media system in the U.S.” – *M.K.*

► **SILENT NIGHT** To virtually no mainstream media coverage, several hundred protesters rallied outside the White House Dec. 15 opposing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; 131 were arrested when they blocked a White House sidewalk or chained themselves to a White House fence. The demonstration was led by **Veterans for Peace**; among those arrested were “Pentagon Papers” whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg, former *New York Times* foreign correspondent and author Chris Hedges, and former CIA analyst Ray McGovern. Said Hedges, “The normal mechanisms by which democratic participation are rendered possible in this country have been closed shut, and if we don’t do this, we die.” – *M.K.*

NEWS

GATHER ROUND YON VIRGINS

Council lopes toward Christmas in thermal underwear

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The holidays are supposed to be about the less fortunate – and that reminder was the first thing to surface last Thursday, at City Council’s final meeting of the year.

On a message of personal privilege, **Mike Martinez** and **Randi Shade** opened the meeting by eulogizing **Jennifer Gale**. The transgendered, homeless City Council regular and perennial candidate died two years ago on the street, suffering a heart attack in the early morning of Dec. 17, 2008. Her death came just hours after she sang a Christmas carol to council’s Public Health and Human Services subcommittee – ironically, the group tasked with addressing the health of the city, including our homeless population. To that end, they played a clip of her singing a now-solemn “**Silent Night**” to hushed chambers.

Gale was a complicated, polarizing figure, and she could easily become intransigent (especially with reporters) if it was suggested that her quixotic campaigns for office were just a hobby. Gale’s most irritating aspect wasn’t Gale herself, but the polite fiction that surrounded her – that this homeless person in obvious need of physical and psychological assistance was instead a quirky exemplar of **Austin weirdness**.

Martinez and Shade said they’ll soon affix a placard in the front row of council chambers in Gale’s memory. However, they also suggested a donation to **House the Homeless’** thermal underwear drive as a gift to the less fortunate this holiday season. Every little bit helps.

CAB RATE QUANDARY

Need doesn’t discriminate: There’s the homeless, and there’s the working poor.

All year long, **Texas RioGrande Legal Aid** argued that many – if not most – of Austin’s taxi drivers fell into the latter category, issuing a report finding that cabbies are trapped by fees and costs that drastically cut their take-home pay (see “Sharecropping on Wheels,” June 11). TRLA’s Austin Branch Manager **D’Ann Johnson** spoke on two agenda items, one which sets a base fare for trips from the airport, and another setting cleanup fees for messy passengers.

The ordinances set fees leaving the airport at a four-mile minimum, as cabs can queue for fares at the airport for hours, then pick up a passenger who may simply want to go to the Hilton next door. The cleanup fee adds a 10-cent surcharge, returned to drivers (an estimated \$359 a year) for cleanup costs. While calling the fees too low (for instance, Johnson said six miles would be a more realistic minimum fare from the airport), Johnson conceded it is “better than nothing, which is what we have right now.”

WATER FLOWING UNDERGROUND

“I’ve been making a list here, and I’ve checked it twice, and it looks like four of you are going to be naughty, and three of you will continue to be nice.”

That was the holiday admonishment from the Sierra Club’s **Roy Waley**, who accurately predicted that evening’s **Water Treatment Plant No. 4**-related vote, which mirrored the previous half-dozen: lumps of coal for plant proponents Lee Leffingwell, Mike Martinez, Sheryl Cole, and Randi Shade. “There’s always a possibility that just like the Grinch, it’s possible that one of you, your heart will grow three sizes today. And you will change your vote ... although I’m afraid three sizes still might not be enough.”

Indeed, it wasn’t to be, as the vote split 4-3 along the traditional lines (with Bill Spelman, Laura Morrison, and Chris Riley dissenting) over the matter of the **Spicewood Springs shaft**, a deep hole now slated to be excavated on parkland opposite homes, required in order for excavations related to a transmission main running from the plant intake to a storage reservoir. The public hearing was required per **Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code**, which requires that in order for a parkland taking to occur, an official finding must be made that no “feasible and prudent” alternative exists – a finding that nearby residents and local environmentalists disputed and sought to prevent.

“You cannot tonight find with rational basis that there’s no feasible and prudent alternatives to the taking or use of the parkland, or that all reasonable measures have been taken – reasonable planning measures to minimize the harm to the park and [Balcones Canyonlands] preserve land,” said Save Our Springs Alliance Director **Bill Bunch**.

While the Hustle had been tempted to anticipate that this winter’s \$300 million omnibus appropriation of WTP4 funding, coupled with the Chapter 26 approval, might put some sort of end to wrangling over the plant, the effect of SOSA’s lawsuit against the city on Austin’s “Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances” with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the **Jollyville Plateau salamander**, is still to be played out – meaning WTP4 will continue to be the gift that keeps on giving, at least into the spring.

And to council, city staff, and Hustlers everywhere, with a seasonal flourish, a holiday good night! ■

Remember the less fortunate. Contribute to House the Homeless’ thermal underwear drive at www.housethehomeless.org.



res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS**, P.48.

THURSDAY 23

DON’T MISS THE 350 Flying for the holidays? Be sure to get a window seat so you can check out the giant, abstract “350” landscaped into a field north of the airport. The project – from farmer **Brenton Johnson** and Austin Green Art’s **Randy Jewart** – is part of the **350.org** project, a global campaign with a worthy goal of lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide to 350 parts per million to fight climate change (right now, we’re at 390). Guess you can start by getting some carbon offsets for that flight.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS Most city offices and municipal facilities will be closed Thursday through Sunday this week, including City Hall, public libraries, and most city-run museums and cultural centers (**Recycled Reads**, the used bookstore run by the library, will remain open *Thu.-Fri., noon-6pm*).

FRIDAY 24

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE: LAST DAY Donate a new book to the **Women’s Storybook Project**, which helps incarcerated mothers connect with their children through literature. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

MONDAY 27

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Curbside collection of Christmas trees begins Monday for Pay-as-You-Throw customers. (Set your tree – no tree bag, no decorations – at the curb by 6:30am; trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half.) Not a Pay-as-You-Throw customer? Just bring your tree to Zilker Park (2100 Barton Springs Rd.; follow the signs to the polo fields) on one of the following dates: *Sun., Jan. 2; Sat.-Sun., Jan. 8-9; Sat., Jan. 15, 10am-4pm.* All trees will be ground into mulch to be given away, for free, later in the new year.

WEDNESDAY 29

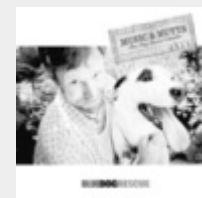
MUTT CRACKER CIRCUS Five dogs, a scarlet macaw, puppets, two jugglers, two unicyclists, live music, and a post-holiday partridge in a pear tree. **Circus Chickendog** will entertain all ages while benefiting the **Austin Humane Society**. 9:30am. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 771-8836. \$10 (\$8, advance).

THURSDAY 30

MUTT CRACKER CIRCUS (See Wednesday.) 6:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 771-8836. \$10 (\$8, advance).

ONGOING

CALENDARS FOR CATS AND CANINES The 2011 calendars from the **Austin Humane Society** (\$5) and **Blue Dog Rescue** (\$15, includes pics of local musicians with their mutts) will make the perfect New Year’s gift for the animal lovers in your life, with your money benefiting two worthy – and local – causes. Both are available for purchase online.



poor people losing even minimal health care, which transforms a \$50 earache into a \$500 taxpayer-funded emergency room visit."

Good for the Goose

Since Texas has been on a stark austerity budget at least since 2009, we've been seeing the local consequences for some time, many of them predating the national recession and a direct consequence of the state property tax giveaway of 2006. School districts are anticipating additional hits this year, and Austin ISD is now surveying the public about how best to absorb an estimated shortfall "that could reach as high as \$100 million" (reports its website) for the 2011-12 academic year. Those kinds of numbers are more than daunting and not readily resolved by the predictable strategies: "increasing teacher workloads, eliminating teacher planning periods and cutting teaching positions," as summarized in the *Statesman's* Sunday feature on the situation ("School finances look grim").

There will be plenty of time (and merit) to argue the wisdom of the various cuts that will be proposed through the spring, but it's undeniable that (in the words of AISD Superintendant Meria Carstarphen) "it will not be possible to avoid reductions at the campus level for the next school year."

Tuesday's *Statesman* published an eloquent description ("Just another goose with her neck on the line") of what that will mean in practice, by Elizabeth Hudson, who teaches eighth graders at O. Henry Middle School. The current district proposal to cut both staffing and planning time would mean for Hudson "more than 200 students rather than the current 175 teenagers entrusted to me each day while my time to prepare for those students will be cut in half."

After 10-hour weekdays starting at 6:45am, and featuring six classes and (currently) two planning sessions, Hudson heads home to grade 300-500 papers and to draft lesson

plans on the weekend: "Despite this 55- to 60-hour work week, I am never caught up." Increasing Hudson's and her colleagues' workloads while cutting their prep time, whatever else it does, will do absolutely nothing to improve the quality (or the "accountability") of the public schools. Since the Lege won't be providing any additional resources (to a district, remember, classified as "wealthy" under state allocation standards), perhaps legislators can design a new cut-rate standardized testing scheme to maintain the illusion that little Texan heads are still being stuffed with Texas-friendly factoids, on the cheap.

The Next Wave

Hudson's apprehensions are but one small scenario of the sort of effects we will see reverberating throughout the Texas economy as the combined results of the national recession and of decisions made at the Capitol. Who will feel those effects? Schoolteachers and schoolchildren, college students and their families, nursing homes and their residents, uninsured Texans, and emergency room staff, and yes, laid-off public employees and their local communities, like Austin's, that they

help sustain. And, judging from history, the new Legislature will likely exacerbate those effects; the 2006 special Lege, knowing full well that the business franchise tax would not sufficiently compensate for the property tax cuts they were determined to enact, made the cuts anyway — Elizabeth Hudson and her students are now bearing the consequences.

I wish I could believe there will be sufficient numbers of "serious lawmakers" — to borrow Kronberg's quixotic phrase — who will arrive at the Capitol fully understanding that campaign rhetoric is one thing, responsibly governing a state of the size and needs of Texas is quite another. There is precious little historical evidence on which to rest those fond and foolish hopes. ■

Perhaps legislators can design a new cut-rate standardized testing scheme to maintain the illusion that little Texan heads are still being stuffed with Texas-friendly factoids.

DARE TO GO ZERO WASTE CHALLENGE Ready to be a reality-TV star of municipal proportions? All you gotta do is take the zero-waste challenge — on camera. You'll be filmed at home for a few hours every week, for five weeks, plus you'll attend other events. Sign up at the city's website. *Deadline: Dec. 31, 5pm.*

HOLIDAY HOUNDS & CATS The **Town Lake Animal Center** has dropped its adoption fee to \$35 this month, so there's no reason not to bring a new companion home for the holidays. *Through Dec. 31. TLAC, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez.*

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN Recommendations on improvements related to historic preservation, density, transportation, and other Downtown issues are available at www.cityofaustin.org/downtown. Public meetings on the plan begin in January.

FACES OF AUSTIN SHORT FILM CONTEST

Want to see your movie on the bigish screen at City Hall? It's better than seeing someone else's, right? All entries should show "an aspect of the nature and character of Austin that has the potential to educate, inform, and/or entertain audiences." *Deadline: Jan. 28. Call 974-7860 or visit the city's website for details.*

WHAT SHOULD AUSTIN SAVE? Sure, Austin's going to change, but aren't there a few things you think ought to stay the same? The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** came to Austin this fall and filmed people all over town answering this question. See what they had to say, and answer the question yourself at NTHP's **Austin Unscripted** website.

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A Bumper-to-Bumper Crop of MoPac Proposals

Where are the bikes?

Recent public forums have given the public a glimpse of a whole menu of changes being considered under the **MoPac Improvement Project**, a joint mission of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, the Texas Department of Transportation, the city of Austin, and Capital Metro. And some local transportation advocates are already saying the plan doesn't give enough consideration to multimodal options.

An array of detailed maps and videos greeted visitors to the forums earlier this month at Murchison and O. Henry middle schools. Among the ideas under consideration for the frequently clogged Parmer Lane-to-Downtown section of the highway:

- adding one **high-occupancy vehicle lane** in each direction,
- adding one **express lane** in each direction (possibly with tolls that vary according to demand),
- adding one **general purpose lane** in each direction,
- adding **multiple lanes** (both general purpose and express),
- plus the federally required “no build” option.

The anti-toll road contingent is adding its voice to the mix, of course. Mary Anderson of **Texans Against Tolls** passed out fliers to attendees of one forum, which listed possible problems with the project. “The proposed changes will make MoPac, not IH-35, the primary thoroughfare through Austin,” the sheet read. “MoPac is being used to carry traffic that TxDOT could shift to IH-35. TxDOT is asking neighborhoods along MoPac to tolerate an interstate thoroughfare that they will pay tolls on.”

Notably absent from the proceedings was any mention of bicycling infrastructure. This would be a continuation of MoPac's current relationship with bicyclists: At almost every entrance to Loop 1, as the highway is also known, are signs showing that bicycles are banned.

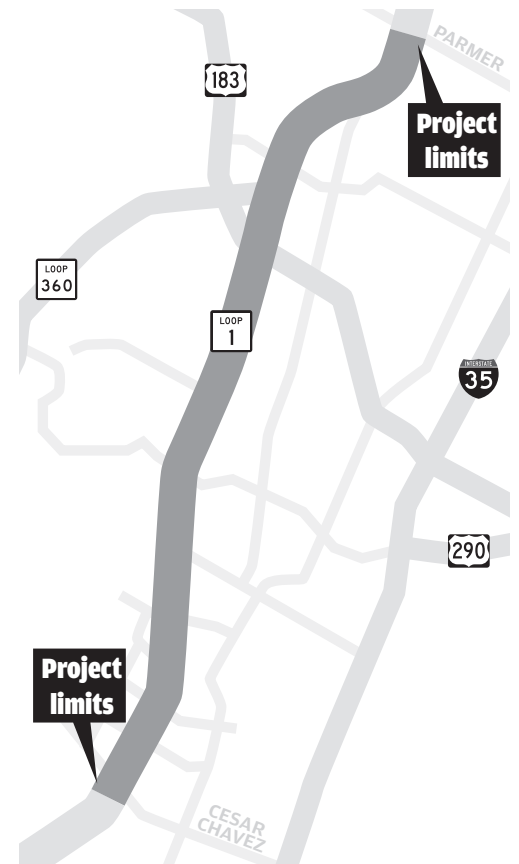


The **League of Bicycling Voters** has called for bikes to be added to the plan in three ways: a nonstop, off-street bicycle path and pedestrian path along the entire length of the improvement area; complete and improved bike and pedestrian connectivity for all crossings of MoPac; and improvement of the Johnson Creek Greenbelt trail.

The Johnson Creek trail offers a glimpse of what a complete bike facility could look like – it runs under and adjacent to MoPac beginning near Austin High School and runs north where it peters out at Enfield Road with poor connectivity to other official Austin bike routes.

“It's understandable that much of the focus would be on cars, but it seems extremely shortsighted and out of step with the stated goals of multi-modal transportation that there is no mention of bicycle or pedestrian accommodations,” the LOBV said in a release.

– Lee Nichols



Transportation officials have laid out several options for managing heavy traffic on MoPac between Cesar Chavez and Parmer Lane. A more detailed look at the project can be found at www.mopacexpress.com, including schematic maps of the proposal for each segment, and a video of what an express lane into Downtown – exiting MoPac onto Cesar Chavez – might look like.

APD Detective Disputes ‘Chronicle’ Story

According to **Austin Police Department** Detective **Daniel Arizpe**, the *Chronicle's* description of the June 30, 2000, incident at the Catfish Parlour – in our Dec. 3 story “Tone Deaf,” about communication problems between APD and deaf residents – was just plain wrong. “I did absolutely nothing wrong,” he told us last week during a meeting at APD headquarters.

The brief passage in the story that concerns Arizpe's actions that day reads as follows: “When APD Officer Daniel Arizpe arrived, he did not provide an interpreter even after Joan repeatedly asked for one; instead, Arizpe used only his voice to communicate that he intended to arrest Richard. Richard didn't know what was happening – or even that Arizpe was a cop – and when Arizpe tried to arrest him, he bit the officer's arm.” (Arizpe is not otherwise mentioned.)

Shortly after the story ran, we got a call from APD's public information office telling us

that Arizpe felt he was incorrectly and unfairly portrayed and wanted a meeting with us.

At that Dec. 16 meeting, Arizpe said that we erred in reporting that he failed to call for an interpreter to communicate with **Richard Bell** (who is deaf and blind) and his wife, Joan (who is deaf), after the couple allegedly got into an altercation with the restaurant manager, an incident that started after the couple had requested a braille menu. Arizpe said that he did in fact call for an interpreter – three times, he says – before arresting Richard and taking him to jail. Arizpe doesn't recall how long he waited for an interpreter to arrive at the scene but estimates it was about 30 minutes. Arizpe said he also tried communicating with Richard by writing notes; he said Richard had already been trying to communicate via writing and that he believed Richard could read the notes that he wrote but refused to do so. Further, Arizpe said that an interpreter did take over once the couple was at the jail.

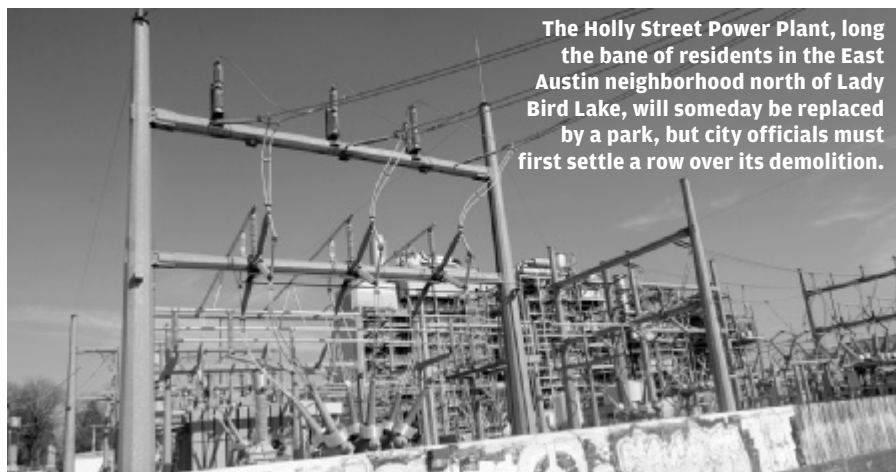
Arizpe said that no charges were filed because he was “trying to be nice,” even though Richard had bitten him on the arm. The manager at the Catfish Parlour, who told Arizpe that Richard had struck him across the head with the white cane he uses as a mobility tool, apparently did not pursue assault charges either. (In fact, no charges of any kind were ever filed.)

Our summary of the Catfish Parlour episode was based on the court documents of record concerning the federal civil rights lawsuit that was filed on behalf of the Bells, under the terms of the Americans With Disability Act, by the **Texas Civil Rights Project**. As we reported, the lawsuit resulted in a settlement, under which the city agreed to ensure that every APD officer receive at least four hours of training on dealing with individuals with disabilities, including the deaf and blind.

– Jordan Smith and Michael King



'Tis the Season To Demolish Holly



The Holly Street Power Plant, long the bane of residents in the East Austin neighborhood north of Lady Bird Lake, will someday be replaced by a park, but city officials must first settle a row over its demolition.

JOHN ANDERSON

Even in its shuttered state, the **Holly Street Power Plant** remains a spark of contention. More than three years after **Austin Energy** closed the facility to convert the site into a city park, a new debate has emerged over who should demolish the hulking structure that has for decades cast an unwelcome shadow over an East Austin neighborhood north of Lady Bird Lake.

Six environmental contractors bid on the project last summer, and on Dec. 13, the **Electric Utility Commission** approved, with strong reservations, city staff's recommendation of Connecticut firm **TRC Environmental Corp.** to demolish the 50-year-old structure and remediate the soil on the 22-acre site. The commissioners' most persistent questions centered on why the No. 2 bidder – **Dixie Demolition of Birmingham, Ala.** – wasn't selected when its \$18.7 million bid was roughly \$6 million below TRC's (or \$8 million with the addition of TRC's 5% contingency fee) and its overall matrix ranking was very nearly tied with TRC's, falling less than a percentage point behind. "Troublesome" and "curious" were the oft-repeated words surrounding the commissioners' discussion.

"We are very disappointed that we weren't selected," Dixie President Claude Hendrickson said. "We were real pleased to participate in the process but curious how a .64 point difference equates to an \$8 million difference in cost."

Project manager **Rose San Miguel** told the commission that TRC's experience and the company's plan of action for Holly proved to be the key selling points. But she explained that because of the sealed-bid process, she wasn't certain what information she could pass on at a public meeting. "Staff at [the Contract and Land Management Department] are very precise," she said of the city's procurement arm for capital projects. "They scrubbed the numbers ... and the numbers resulted in what you see before you."

With one member absent, the commission considered punting the proposal

without action, but ultimately approved the recommendation on four votes, with members **Steve Taylor** and **Stephen Smaha** abstaining. The commission also agreed to include a red flag with its vote to alert City Council of its concerns. Council is slated to consider the demolition proposal Jan. 13.

One other trouble spot remains. What the commission didn't know at the time it voted was that a competing bidder, California-based **CST Environmental** – which low-balled the project at \$13.8 million – had already filed a complaint with the city over its elimination from the bid process. According to the complaint, filed by attorney **Thomas Nesbitt**, CST had been ranked equal to TRC in financial stability and had scored higher than TRC in reference checks, yet the company wasn't even granted an interview. "CST's failure to be interviewed for the project has never been explained by Austin Energy staff despite repeated requests," Nesbitt wrote in a letter to City Council and the commission.

Nesbitt, who attended the Dec. 13 meeting, said he was flummoxed by the lack of details provided to the commissioners, despite their repeated questions for more information. "I've been to a lot of public meetings," Nesbitt said, "and it just struck me as very odd." Nesbitt is seeking to have the commission reconsider its vote and has sent a letter to City Council and the commission to inform them of his client's complaint, filed four days before the commission meeting. But CST's complaint stalled out on Tuesday with the city finding "no grounds for a protest hearing," according to a letter to Nesbitt from Rosie Truelove, acting director of Contract and Land Management. Truelove stated that the city only interviewed the top five bidders, and CST ranked sixth, or last.

Nesbitt, meanwhile, says the city is still failing to explain its prompt dismissal of CST from the bid process. "My view is that this is more of the kind of lack of transparency that was apparent at the Dec. 13 meeting," he said.

– Amy Smith

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Animal Shelter's Next Top Dog?

Over the last month, the public had a chance to meet and size up the five finalists vying to be Austin's next animal services officer. Whoever she turns out to be, the new director will be taking over a department in transition, both physically (moving the shelter from its current home on Town Lake to the Betty Dunkerley Campus on Levander Loop) and philosophically (moving the city and its residents toward a new "no-kill" state of mind). At press time, City Manager **Marc Ott** named **Abigail Smith** as the "top candidate" and announced plans to send Assistant City Manager **Bert Lumbreras** – along with a contingent of stakeholders – to Smith's hometown of Ithaca, N.Y., for a site visit of the Tompkins County SPCA, where she currently serves as executive director. A final decision awaits the outcome of that trip. In the meantime, here's a brief look at the candidates and what they had to say during their recent meetings with the community.

– Josh Rosenblatt



The city's new animal services director will oversee operations at the new Betty Dunkerley Campus, under construction near U.S. 183 and Levander Loop.

LINDA HALLER

"Pet overpopulation is, to a large degree, the result of irresponsible owners not educating themselves about how best to take care of their animals."



Haller was the chief of animal services for El Dorado County, Calif. Before that she was the director of shelter operations at the Hawaiian Humane Society in Honolulu. Haller started her career 25 years ago as an animal services officer in the Orange County, Fla., Animal Services Division.

Haller says that educating the public will be key to improving animal welfare in the city. At November's meet and greet, she stressed the importance of transparency and said the best way to earn the public's trust is to help them understand that "no kill" doesn't mean "no euthanasia."

LAURA HINZE

"There are metrics and standards that the [no-kill] code is speaking to that give everyone an opportunity to see how we're going to win."



Hinze has worked for seven years as the operations director of PAWS Chicago, the largest spay/neuter clinic in the country, performing more than 17,000 operations a year. She is also a manager-level member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and a founder of the Greyhound Rescue Adoption Resource.

Hinze says her years working in the corporate world, first as the president of a voice-technology company and then as a Web/electronic media market manager, have provided her with the tools to run an animal shelter with efficiency and an eye toward "team-building."

ELLEN JEFFERSON

"It's critically important that the shelter director is open to every single group that's out there and tries to make the shelter a welcoming place."



Jefferson, the only Austinite among the five finalists, is the founder of Emancipet spay/neuter clinic and the current president of Austin Pets Alive!, a rescue group aimed at making Austin no-kill.

Jefferson may have simultaneously the most and the least support among stakeholders. Some credit her work as the director of APA with saving thousands of animals from the Town Lake Animal Center's euthanasia list last year; others claim her criticisms of other groups have harmed solidarity in Austin's animal-rights community.

JULIE SEAL

"If we all look into our hearts and find that area that we have passion around, just think about what a wonderful place society would be. And that's why I'm here: to fulfill that passion and, in my own small way, make the world a better place."



Seal is the former director of charitable development for Anova, an organization in Santa Rosa, Calif., helping children with autism and learning disabilities. In 1995, she founded the first animal welfare organization in Phoenix, which facilitated the adoption of more than 9,000 "nonadoptable" animals over 10 years.

With the city opening a new shelter in 2011 and moving toward no-kill status over the next year, Seal believes the key to success will be for the splintered Austin animal-rights community to move toward reconciliation.

ABIGAIL SMITH

"I embrace every single way I have to get animals out of the shelter."



The last of the candidates to meet the public, Smith is also the only candidate with experience running a no-kill shelter. For the last four years, Smith has been executive director of the Tompkins County SPCA in Ithaca, N.Y. That shelter, which handles approximately 3,000 animals each year, had a live outcome rate of 94% last year. Smith says that though she believes the city is in a good place to start implementing its no-kill plan, she is "concerned about financial resources." She says in order to achieve its no-kill goal, the community will have to subsidize city funding with charitable donations.

Spencer To Head Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

Last week, City Manager **Marc Ott** appointed **Betsy Spencer** to head the city's **Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office**. The move comes at a time when the city's ambitious affordable and supportive housing policies are coming under closer scrutiny.

Spencer has served as acting director of NHCD since June, when she took over from **Margaret Shaw**, whom Ott had reassigned to **Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services**. Spencer "has proven to be a consensus builder who can get things done for low-income Austinites seeking a home and opportunities to better their lives," Ott said in a press release announcing the promotion. "She has helped forge new working relationships that already have proven successful in moving projects forward."

NHCD is the city organization tasked with creating and facilitating affordable, low-income housing and business development, having a hand in projects ranging

from Downtown's **Austin Resource Center for the Homeless** to housing for seniors on fixed incomes. Spencer's appointment comes as the city seeks to drastically step up its commitment to **permanent supportive housing** for the homeless and housing-unstable; in spring, City Council prioritized remaining affordable-housing bond dollars from 2006 for PSH development, and the city has set a goal of creating 350 PSH units by 2014. However, the push has created push-back, notably among some residents and property owners in East Austin, as the city's plans for 20 PSH units at the Marshall Apartments on East 12th Street have run into complaints that the project may be at odds with the overall redevelopment of the area (see "The 12th of Never," Dec. 17). The city alludes to the controversy in the announcement of Spencer's appointment, writing she "has led the department on major issues involving helping low-income families find housing as well as a new direction in working relationships for redevelopment of the 11th and 12th Street Corridor." – Wells Dunbar



JANA BIRCHUM

In keeping with the occasionally risqué cultural atmosphere along the North I-35 frontage roads, Amazonia Aquariums is celebrating its 18th anniversary (it opened Dec. 12, 1992) by going with the flow: "Live Nude Fish" announces the sign outside the store at 4701 N. I-35.

No, Really. I Can't Quit You.

Same-sex marriage is banned in Texas, and that means same sex divorces should be, too – so goes the argument of Attorney General **Greg Abbott's** office in the appeal of an Austin divorce granted earlier this year by Travis County District Judge **Scott Jenkins**.

Angelique Naylor and **Sabina Daly** were married in Massachusetts in 2004; they moved to Austin soon thereafter. In February 2010, the couple was in district court seeking to dissolve the union. After two days of testimony, Jenkins entered an oral judgment, affirming that the divorce was final.

Shortly thereafter, the A.G.'s Office tried to intervene in the case, arguing that the couple's divorce was a threat to the state ban on gay marriage. In arguments on Dec. 15 at the 3rd Court of Appeals, **James Blacklock**, representing the A.G.'s Office, argued that the divorce of one couple in Travis County could set a precedent for other gay couples to divorce here. "So everybody who is gay wants to come down to Texas to get a divorce because of this one judgment?" a skeptical Justice **Diane Henson** asked Blacklock.

"In Travis County it seems that is the law," Blacklock replied.

Naylor's attorney, **Jody Scheske**, who argued on behalf of the women, said the A.G.'s position was ridiculous: The women never sought to challenge Texas' ban on gay marriage. More importantly, he said, the laws banning marriage say nothing about banning divorce. The statutes talk about barring gay couples from any "going-forward state benefits" from a union but leaves out any mention of dissolution – and "I don't think anybody who has been through a divorce thinks a divorce is some benefit of marriage," Scheske said. The situation here is not at all unique: A couple gets married, moves, and then the union falls apart, and they seek a divorce in the state in which they live. The district court clearly had jurisdiction over the local divorce case, and, Scheske noted, the A.G.'s Office has never argued that the women were not legally married.

Blacklock, however, said that clearly there has to be more going on here than just seeking a divorce. "It is a desire of same-sex couples to have their marriages recognized here," he said. There is no same-sex marriage here, and thus they cannot be divorced. That reasoning prompted more skepticism from Henson (who, with



Angelique Naylor

Chief Justice **Woodie Jones** and Justice **David Puryear**, made up the three-judge panel that heard the case): If the couple had dissolved their marriage in Massachusetts, and one of the women had gotten a judgment for child support and alimony from the other, and then that person had failed to pay the support and fled to Texas, the state of Texas would be fine with harboring that absconder?

Yes, said Blacklock – which is why gay couples should void their marriages via contracts that would bind future behavior.

The justices also seemed unconvinced that the A.G.'s Office even has standing to intervene after Jenkins pronounced the couple divorced in February. Blacklock argued, however, that the divorce wasn't actually final until a month later, when various paperwork was filed; the oral pronouncement in February was not binding, he said. That, too, was met with skepticism from the panel of judges – "did you ever do any divorce work, in a previous life?" asked Henson – who noted that an oral judgment is usually considered final. Blacklock argued, however, that the underlying issue is that the women are trying to undermine the gay marriage ban, which should allow the A.G.'s Office to intervene, even after a judgment is rendered.

Scheske disagreed that the women were up to anything except simply seeking divorce. The A.G. "is not allowed to intervene any time it wants to," Scheske said. To buy the A.G.'s argument and allow that to happen, he said, would create a huge "expansion of executive power."

A ruling will likely come next year, though the court has no deadline to act.

– Jordan Smith

Neil Still Gunning for Howard's Seat

Having failed to defeat Austin Democrat **Donna Howard** on Election Day, Republican **Dan Neil** is taking his fight for House District 48 to the Legislature. On Dec. 20, Neil's campaign filed a petition for an election contest with the House, alleging problems with the ballot. In the 60-page filing, Neil's campaign unleashed a scattershot blast of allegations against the **Travis County Elections Division**, ranging from two missing ballots to an allegation about 1,900 ineligible voters. In a press release, Neil claimed they were "felons who may have been ineligible to vote" but did not provide any evidence to back this claim. Howard's attorney, **Buck Wood**, has filed special exceptions with the House, savaging Neil's suit as too vague to allow a real response. Instead of showing due diligence in the filing, said Wood, the Republican was throwing "a bunch of ideas to see what sticks." Howard won on election night with a 16-vote margin over Neil, which dropped to 12 after a Dec. 2 recount – see "Republicans Denied a Supermajority (Again)," Dec. 10. If Neil were to win his challenge, it would give the Republicans a 102-seat majority in the Texas House. Howard called Neil's attempt to get an election do-over a quest for "a political intervention that will trump the voters' will."

– Richard Whittaker

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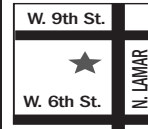
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RECEPTION Please join us for a public reception: Sunday, September 27 from 3 to 5pm. Free Potluck. Curator of Photography of the HRC, will give a tour of the exhibition.

PROGRAMS Related films and videos will be screened on Thursday evenings, September 7 and 14 at 5pm. A special symposium will be held Sunday, September 28 from 2 to 5pm.

All programs are free and will be held in the Art School of Laguna Gloria Art Museum. For more information on programs and tours, please call 455-8191.

Support of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center is gratefully acknowledged. The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center is a part of the University of Texas at Austin.

Chronicle at Sept. 8, 1989

Census Could Cause Senseless Redistricting

Texas got an early Christmas present Tuesday: four new congressional seats.

The 2010 Census results are out, which of course brings a new reapportioning of representation in Washington. The Lone Star State's rapid growth over the past 10 years means we get a bigger share of the floor in the U.S. House, growing from 32 seats to 36. That's double the next-biggest grower, Florida, which picked up two. Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington each gained one; the losers were 10 states in the Midwest and Northeast, plus Louisiana. New York and Ohio each lost two seats. Since representation in Congress also determines the number of votes each state gets in the electoral college, Texas will be an even bigger force in the next three presidential elections.

While every state except Michigan saw population growth, Texas' 20.6% growth was beaten only by Arizona, Utah, and Idaho, which have much smaller populations. Gov. **Rick Perry** was quick to take credit: "Texas' gain of four new Congressional seats as a result of our state's booming population is further evidence that Texas remains the best place in the nation to start a business, find a job and raise a family," he said, adding, "I look forward to working with the Legislature in the process of drawing these new seats into our state's district map and ensuring that Texas remains a leader in job creation and a land of opportunity for those willing to come here and risk their capital."

Austin Congressman **Lloyd Doggett** warned that foul play was already afoot in the Legislature. "Some State Republicans remain intent on forcing all of Austin to be represented by the Tea Party," he said.

"Their goal is to cut up our community, defeat me personally, and ignore what makes Austin unique. It's another big, uphill challenge, but if we get enough folks committed and actively involved, both during and after redistricting, we can overcome their scheme."

Texas Democratic Party leader **Boyd Richie** recalled that the last round of GOP-led redistricting – two rounds, actually, including the questionable re-districting of Texas' congressional seats in 2003 – was an ugly, divisive affair. "In 2003,

Tom DeLay and state Republican officials achieved their partisan goals by drawing

maps that effectively deny a majority of Texas' African American and Hispanic voters the opportunity to cast a ballot that really counts by stranding them in districts represented by Republicans whose votes in Congress do not represent their interests," Richie wrote, citing 2009 Census Department estimates showing 33% growth among Hispanics and 16% among African-Americans, but only 7.5% among Caucasians since 2000; 2010 racial breakdowns will not be available until spring. "Given the demographic facts driving Texas' population growth," he said, "the new plan should be drawn to create at least two additional Hispanic opportunity districts and restore African American and Hispanic voting strength in other districts where it was denied and diminished under the current plan."

– Lee Nichols

2010 CENSUS RESULTS

Population growth determines each state's representation in Congress. Texas' rapid growth translates to four new congressional seats. Here's the roundup:

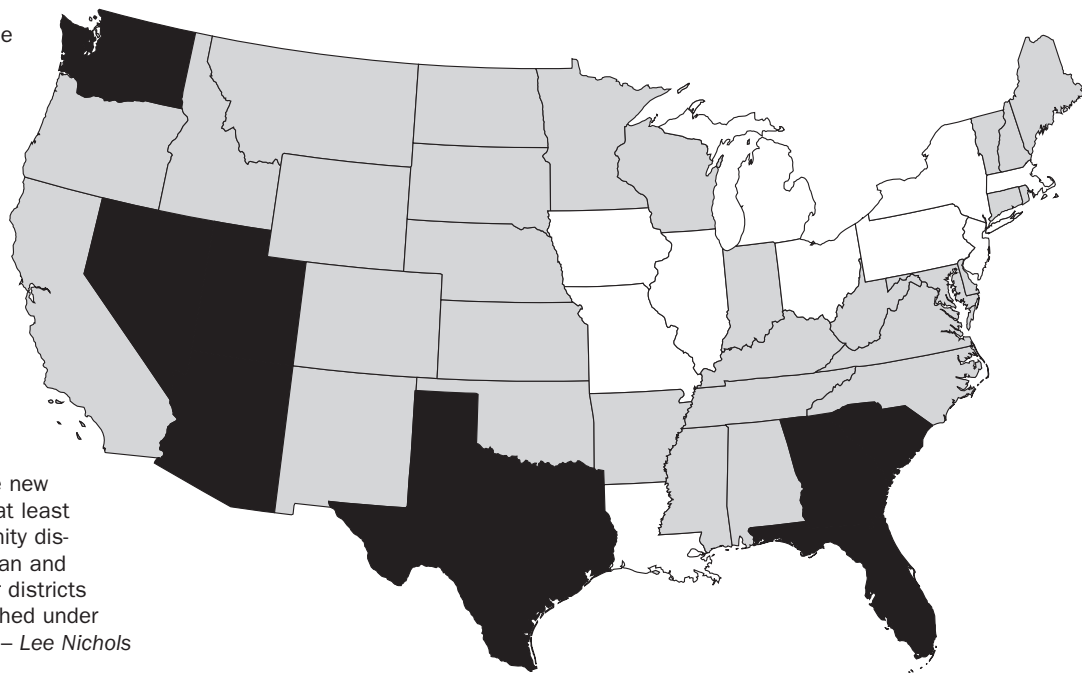
GAINED (black on the map)

Arizona +1
Florida +2
Georgia +1
Nevada +1
South Carolina +1
Texas +4
Utah +1
Washington +1

LOST (white on the map)

Illinois -1
Iowa -1
Louisiana -1
Massachusetts -1
Michigan -1
Missouri -1
New Jersey -1
New York -2
Ohio -2
Pennsylvania -1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Third Party's the Charm?

Since Election Day, the joke around the Legislature has been that there are now three parties under the dome: the Republicans, the Democrats, and the tea party. On Dec. 16, Sen. **Dan Patrick**, R-Houston, came one step closer to formalizing that reality when he announced his **Tea Party Caucus of Texas**. Members are required to sign off on the five points of the **Texas Conservative Coalition's** Pledge With Texans, committing them to an anti-tax, anti-federal agenda. So far, he's attracted 48 state reps, but his call to arms has mostly fallen on deaf ears in the Senate, with only incoming freshman **Brian Birdwell**, R-Granbury, signing on.

Patrick has also failed to reach across the aisle. A coalition of leading House Democrats, including **Pete Gallego**, D-Alpine, lambasted his announcement as grandstanding, saying, "Texans have too many urgent problems to entertain ideologically driven proposals from the far right." In a joint statement, the group reminded Texans that this new caucus emerged from the same conservative bloc that has threatened to terminate the state's Medicaid program. They warned, "Texas cannot

afford to lose over \$16 billion in federal matching funds, while starving our hospitals, neglecting our elderly and disabled and turning our backs on our children."

This isn't the first time Patrick has reached out of the Senate to dabble in House politics. In November, he tried to play kingmaker in the speaker's race by organizing a sit-down between Speaker **Joe Straus** and his two conservative challengers, **Ken Paxton** from McKinney and Pampa's **Warren Chisum** – a meeting Patrick admitted violated "the traditions and practices of the state Capitol." And back in April, he founded the **Independent Conservative Republicans of Texas**. Built on very similar political dogma as his tea party caucus, that group managed to get 16 senators and 62 reps on board, all Republicans. This seeming duplication of resources has left Patrick's fellow Houstonian, Democrat Rep. **Garnet Coleman**, understandably baffled. He also warned that Patrick will need to keep the "racial animosity and troubling extremist elements" of the tea party movement out of the debate.

– Richard Whittaker



the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

VICTORY FOR TRUTH IN LABELING

Question: What do **biotech corporations**, national milk processors, and the Ohio state government have in common? Answer: defeat!

Such biotech powerhouses as **Monsanto** and **Eli Lilly & Co.** are the profiteers behind an artificial growth hormone that induces dairy cows to produce more milk. This stuff is not good for the cows, and it produces nutritionally inferior milk. It also horrifies consumers – who tend to get a bit testy at the thought of having what is actually a sex hormone added to the milk their children drink.

However, big milk marketers like the idea of squeezing out more milk per cow, as it fattens their bottom lines. The only problem is that little matter of consumer rejection. But the biotechers and marketers fixed that by getting federal regulators to declare that adulterated milk need not be labeled as such. In short, the industry, the government, and even the cows know about the sex hormones, but consumers are kept in the dark.

Nonetheless, many organic and smaller dairy businesses have had the audacity to label their products as “hormone-free,” and consumers have rushed to them. This spurred the hormone hucksters into a cross-country lobbying frenzy, demanding that various state governments ban hormone-free labels.

Ohio swallowed this corporate line, outlawing labels that tell consumers what's *not* in their milk. Now, however, in a case brought by the **Organic Trade Association**, the U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that such bans are not only ridiculous but unconstitutional, violating the free-speech rights of dairy producers who want to be straight with consumers.

The court's decision is a major defeat for the 15-year effort by the corporate powers to hide their perfidy from milk buyers. To learn more, visit www.ota.com.

TEA PARTYING LIKE OLD PROS

One thing is clear from November's election results: Those new, tea-infused Republican lawmakers are going to end business-as-usual in Congress. As incoming Sen. **Rand Paul** so plainly put it: “We've come to take our government back.”

Ah, yes, a government “of the people,” at last! But as one corporate lobbyist said of the fresh-faced newcomers, “As soon as they get here, we need to co-opt them.”

Well, that didn't take long. Just days after their election, even before they had been assigned office space in the Capitol, dozens of these so-called “citizen legislators” were holding lobbyist-sponsored fundraisers at various swank watering holes around Washington. They glad-handed and grinned as such special interests as **Exxon Mobil Corp.**, **Delta Air Lines Inc.**, and **Wall Street** bankers welcomed them by slipping thousands of dollars into each of their pockets.

Adam Kinzinger of Illinois was one. Back home, he was pledging to change Washington. Only two weeks after winning a House seat, however, Washington was changing him. He held a “debt retirement breakfast” at the Capitol Hill Club, gleefully greeting corporate-influence peddlers who paid up to \$5,000 each to curry favor with him. Exchanging winks, the lobbyists knew that business-as-usual was alive and well.

Then there's **Andy Harris** of Maryland, a doctor who won a House seat on Nov. 4 by denouncing Obamacare as socialized medicine. But six days later, Harris was in Washington asking, “Where's mine?” At a briefing for newcomers, Harris was incredulous to learn that the socialized health coverage that Congress critters get wouldn't kick in until four weeks after he took the oath of office.

Tell me again how this bunch is different? They're not even in office yet, and they're already playing the insider game like old pros.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.



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The Sky's the Limit

County buys AMOA block for a new 'hundred-year' courthouse

BY JORDAN SMITH



The Heman Marion Sweatt courthouse was originally constructed in 1930. Two short wings (to the left and right of the central front entry) were added in 1958; in 1964, additional jail space was added that many believe ruined the original "Texas moderne" style.

And there are rats; in this office alone, staff recently trapped a family of seven. Indeed, literal courthouse rats are apparently fairly common. On the way back up the main stairs toward Dietz's third-floor office, we ran into Judge Jeff Rose, the former 353rd District judge who was recently appointed to the 3rd Court of Appeals by Gov. Rick Perry. "Tell her about your robe," Dietz says. Rose relates there was a vent above the spot where his black judicial robe hung overnight. Every morning, Rose says, he'd come in and wipe off rat hair and excrement before donning the robe again.

In all, roughly 30,000 people come through the courthouse doors each month, and the staff must annually track more than a million pieces of case-related paper (much of it stored on-site), creating a courthouse bursting at the seams. The current setup also poses security challenges: Unlike the criminal court buildings (just to the west down a steep flight of stairs), the civil courthouse has no secured entry for jail inmates – typically, men jailed for nonpayment of child support. Nor does it have special waiting areas where children and families involved in emotionally charged divorce or Child Protective Services cases can be segregated. As it is now, notes County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, the "warring parties" must sit side by side or face-to-face in courthouse hallways – not an ideal situation.

According to the county's estimates, the civil courts alone currently require more than 109,000 usable square feet. Overall, the county's courts – including the neighboring criminal courts and all the associated offices for clerks, staff, the law center, and dispute resolution center – actually need more than 900,000 square feet, if nonusable space is taken into account. By 2035, accounting for anticipated population growth, the county estimates that space needed for all court operations will balloon to somewhere around 1.5 million gross square feet.

'Full Circle'

Dietz first began working in the Sweatt courthouse in 1977, when he was a prosecutor, so after more than 30 years, he knows the building inside and out. Roughly seven years ago, he began to get serious about the limitations of the current courthouse. The judges joined together and talked to the commissioners, and the group began planning in earnest. Initially, says Biscoe, they considered the block across Guadalupe Street (site of the University Savings Building, which formerly housed the county's tax office) that the county already owns – but that plan fizzled because of height constraints imposed by the Capitol View Corridor restrictions.

Building a new courthouse, says Travis County Judge John Dietz, is "really kind of a once-in-a-century deal." That's essentially true for Travis County, which has been using the same civil courthouse – with two modest renovations – for the last 80 years.

With the historic Heman Marion Sweatt civil courthouse – which until recent years also contained the county's criminal courts, now next door – operating at 40% over capacity, last week the county announced its plan to begin the next hundred years with the construction of what will become, according to county estimates, a 538,000-square-foot civil courthouse. Presuming the county's contract on the land closes as expected, the building will be built between Third and Fourth Streets at Guadalupe Street, just south of Republic Square Park – that is, on the Downtown lot originally designated as the courthouse tract in 1839, when the city was first laid out (as Waterloo) by Judge Edwin Waller.

On Dec. 14, county commissioners voted to enter into a contract to buy that tract, for \$21.75 million, from its current owner, the Austin Museum of Art. The price tag is hefty and so is the project that county officials, including the county's presiding judge, Dietz, envision – a project that they've been working on for most of the last decade. "Seven years ago I sat and thought, 'Do I really want to do this?,' because it's like a very long campaign," Dietz said last week, sitting in the jury suite (which doubles as a conference room) attached to his 250th District Court. "In one sense it

In all, roughly 30,000 people come through the courthouse doors each month, and the staff must annually track more than a million pieces of case-related paper (much of it stored on-site), creating a courthouse bursting at the seams.

seems like it's moving at glacial speed; in another respect, it's happening [quickly] because there's so much to do."

Indeed, although much planning and thinking about judicial program needs has already been done, the county still must get literal community buy-in to the project – through approval of a multi-million-dollar bond issue – before a shovel of dirt is moved. Dietz is optimistic: "I'm pretty confident we're going to turn out something pretty cool here."

Resident Rodents

There is no doubt in the minds of county officials and the daily users of the courthouse – myriad judges, an army of clerks, miscellaneous staffers, law enforcement personnel, and of course hundreds of civilian litigants – that Travis County needs a new civil courts building. The Sweatt building, at 11th and Guadalupe, was originally erected in 1930. It was expanded modestly in 1958 with additional court space and again in 1964 – when the area population was a quarter of what it is now, notes County Judge Sam Biscoe – to add

new jail space. That was an awkward-looking renovation to the building's north side which, in Dietz's judgment, ruined the stylish "Texas moderne" architecture and "art deco symmetry" of the original building.

Even including those two additions, says Dietz, the usable inside square footage is roughly 75,000 square feet. According to the county's numbers, the civil courts alone use nearly 50,000 square feet. That means everyone else – including the busy Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace, the probate court, and the clerk's office – is shoehorned into the remaining space. It makes for interesting working conditions. During an impromptu tour last week through the "dungeon" – a first-floor side office containing files of civil cases – Dietz pointed out that the file stacks run floor to ceiling, with clerks' desks wedged along the walls in the remaining usable space. Sensitive case files (those sealed by the court) occupy an old walk-in safe. The ceiling is lined with all types of wires and pipes – including the building's plumbing, which hovers just above the paper files.

A couple of years ago, says Biscoe, they began considering the vacant AMOA property – which just happened to be the site of the county's very first courthouse. "There were one or two other pieces of property Downtown" that the county also considered, but neither panned out. "At one, the owner didn't want to sell." The county has focused on the AMOA tract for about a year. (For more on the museum's side of the deal, see "Austin Museum of Art," The Arts, p.25.)

Last week, the county was finally able to put the Guadalupe site – one of the last Downtown tracts free of view/height restrictions – under contract. County officials are excited about the prospects, says Commissioner Ron Davis, gratified they were able to outbid other interested parties, and pleased with the history of the site. The first Travis County courthouse, which also served as the jail, was on this site, built in the mid-1850s and consisting of two courtrooms and what Dietz calls "a dungeon." Within two decades, the county had outgrown the facility and built a successor on the southeast corner of 11th and Congress. That property became a state office building when the Sweatt courthouse was built in 1930 (in the 1960s the second courthouse was finally torn down, and the site has since been a parking lot). Moving the courthouse back Downtown to the original site has a certain historical symmetry for county officials. We're "right back to where we started from," says Davis. "It's full-circle."

Consider the Children

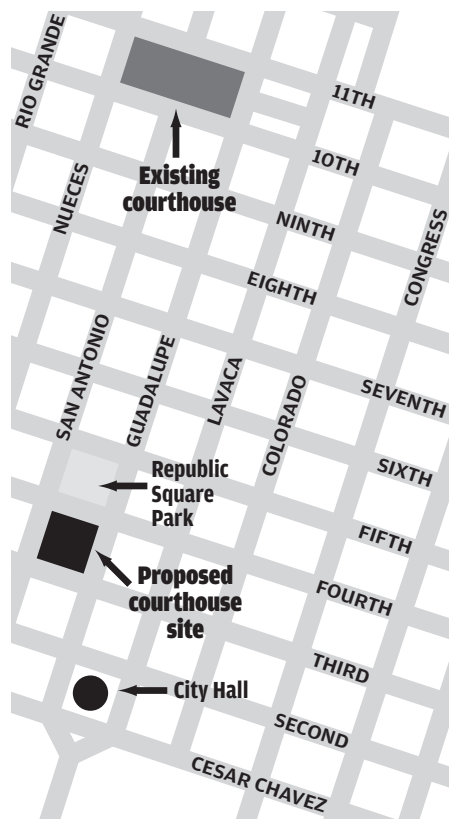
But this time, of course, there will be more than just two courtrooms, and no dungeon.

In fact, the courthouse that public officials envision will be nothing like any of the court facilities the county has yet seen. Ideally, say officials, the facility will be far more user-

friendly. For starters, it will pull together elements of the county's judicial system that are currently housed in various places around the city, and it will incorporate new features that will make it more accessible to "working people," says Dietz.

For example, officials envision bringing the county's dispute resolution center to the new site, which should help the civil caseload – most of which requires at least a mediation attempt – to move more smoothly.

CONTINUED ON P.22



The county is under contract to buy the site of this parking lot, between Third and Fourth streets along Guadalupe Street, to build a new civil courthouse that could rise as high as 17 stories. In 1855, it was the site of the county's first courthouse.



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PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM



Some of the finer detail work inside the Sweatt courthouse, including one of its original courtrooms. After a new civil courthouse is built, county officials intend to restore the existing courthouse to its original grandeur.

Having a new and much larger space would also allow the county to expand its popular Self-Help Center. The center, currently sandwiched on the split-level below the Sweatt courthouse's first floor and next to the building's small cafeteria, has three staff attorneys who are available to help individuals research and prepare to represent themselves in civil matters. Dietz is particularly proud of this office, which he says is unique in the state. Of the 50 to 75 divorce cases the county hears each month, he says, roughly 40 are filed by individuals using the center. In the county's space plans, the law library housing this office could triple in size.

County officials are additionally interested in incorporating a child-care center into the new courthouse. Creating some form of child care will not only help children involved in divorce or other cases; it will also allow jurors with child-care concerns to serve when they might not otherwise have been able to, and, similarly, it will help people with cases on any of the civil dockets who have a hard time getting to the courthouse during normal working hours because of child-care concerns.

The Long View

Still, exactly what the courthouse will look like, inside and out, is yet to be determined. Consultants have been working with officials to determine what the county's needs are – both at present and looking forward to 2035. Using population projections, they're anticipating what the civil caseload will look like more than two decades down the line – especially in the rapidly growing area of family law. With those projections in mind, the county, working with a contingent of consultants (led by Broaddus & Associates), has come up with a rough sketch of the civil courts' space needs.

In that "stacking diagram," the civil courthouse would rise to 15 or more stories; according to the county's space-needs study, the number of civil courtrooms would grow

from the roughly 20 we now have to almost 35 by 2035. County officials' legwork on the proposed site included visits to other courthouses, including new facilities in Charlotte, N.C., and Orange County, Fla.

Of course, whether the county will get voter approval to move forward with the project remains to be seen. (Dietz says if voters do approve the project, it would become the largest current courthouse project in the nation, which should allow the county to attract the country's best architectural and construction talent.) The next step will be to seat a Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee – ideally that will happen in January, says Rodney Rhoades, executive manager of the county's Planning and Budget Office. From there, the cost estimates for the courthouse will be refined.

That exact cost is yet to be determined; Biscoe says the early estimates he's heard run

anywhere from \$150 million to \$350 million. Either is a lot of money – but so was the \$750,000 that the county spent on building the original Sweatt courthouse in 1930, says Dietz. That expenditure, he says, was "controversial at the time." But over 80 years, he notes, those officials might have decided the investment was actually a "good deal, costing only about \$9,300 per year." In other words, he says, spending on a project like this is a matter of perspective.

Nonetheless, spending for the new civil courthouse isn't the only project on the county's plate. The courthouse is actually just one piece in the county's Central Campus master plan, a development scenario that brings most of the county government's major functions together into the city's core. For example, reworking the lot across from the Sweatt courthouse, the old University Savings Bank tract (known as Block 126, says Rhoades), into a civic center is also part of the plan – a hub not only for county offices but also, ideally, for open space, retail, and restaurants. The plan would revitalize Wooldridge Square Park, which is directly to the south of the Sweatt courthouse, and would include the restoration of the Sweatt courthouse itself.

Although the facility is now overburdened by use, it has a lot of history worth preserving, say county officials – including the fourth-floor courtroom where Heman Sweatt and his lawyer, then the future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, fought to desegregate the UT School of Law. Ideally, says Dietz, the county would remove the 1964 addition that tacked on upstairs jail space and would take the building

back at least to its 1958 look, and it would additionally restore to their original state the building's first courtrooms. It would remain a working facility, housing an expanded probate court and Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace, and the first floor would incorporate public meeting space, says Rhoades. And the original jail, in the building's top floors – known to courthouse denizens as "Alcatraz" – would become the county's history center, says Eckhardt.

But that's down the line, likely in the second phase of Central Campus bonds and construction, after the new civil courthouse facility is built. (The second phase might also incorporate the expansion of the criminal courts building, possibly tacking on an additional seven stories to the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center that the county built just nine years ago. The criminal caseload will expand as the civil caseload does, the county expects, necessitating 14 additional criminal courtrooms by 2035, along with the expansion of the central jail that sits next door.)

That, Eckhardt says, would happen first, within the next 10 years. The county first evaluated its facilities for "critical needs," which includes, primarily, the civil courthouse facility, says Rhoades. The rest of the projects will be staged over the next 20 years. Indeed, Dietz said that he hopes the new courthouse would be complete within five to seven years.

There's a long way to go and much still unknown about how the plans for the project will play out. But Dietz is nonetheless excited. "It's tremendous," he says. "There are a lot of great things that we could do." ■



Judge John Dietz has worked at the Sweatt courthouse since 1977, starting as a prosecutor. He's been working on the new courthouse project since the kickoff of the planning process seven years ago.

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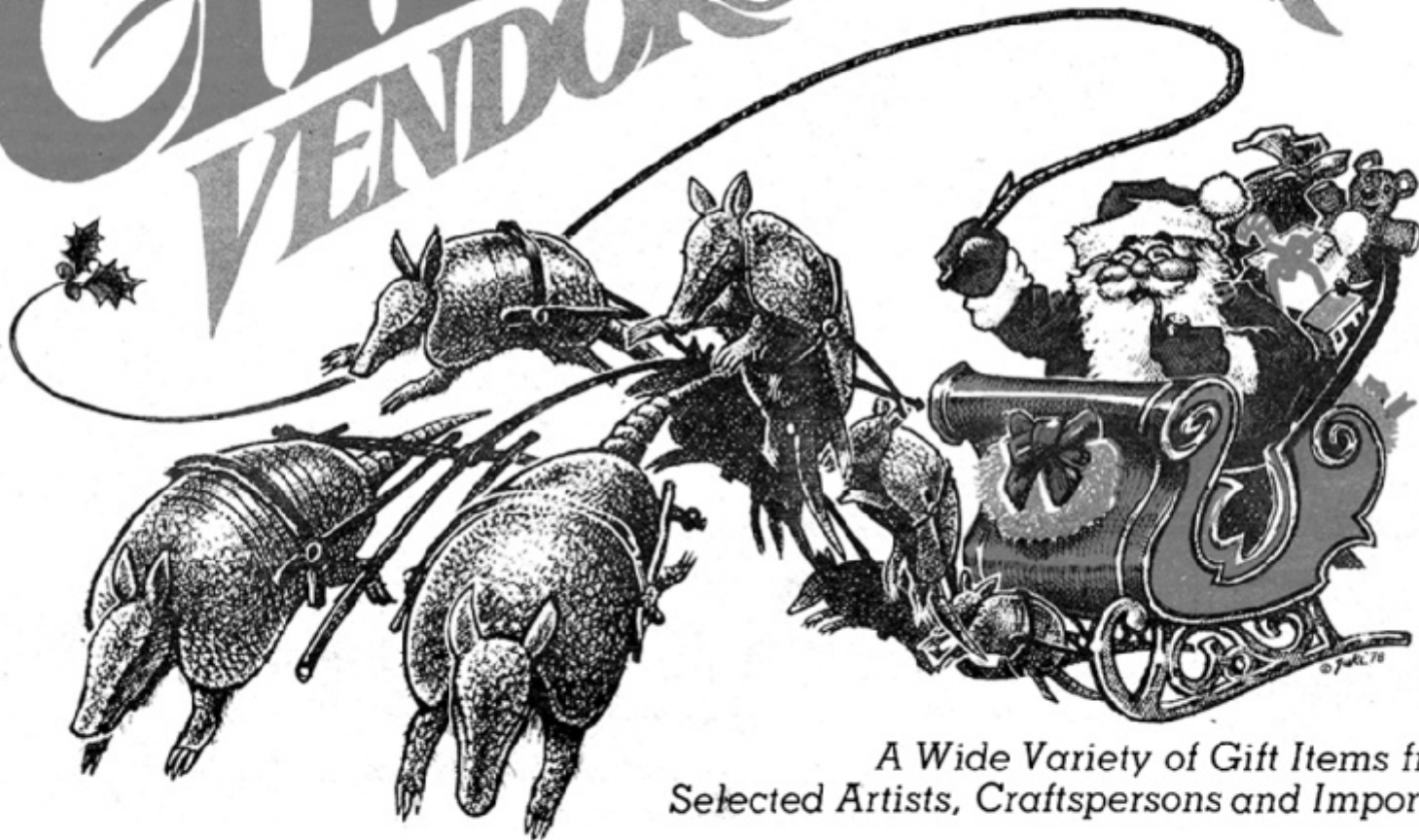
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AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART

With its Downtown museum site sold, whither goes AMOA?

For close to 30 years, the Austin Museum of Art has clung to the dream of a permanent Downtown home on a block south of Republic Square Park, a dream it held on to even through the collapse of three separate building plans that were publicly announced. But the news last week that Travis County had contracted to buy the block AMOA owns between West Third and West Fourth and Guadalupe and San Antonio streets means that the museum has finally let go of that particular dream. So what does that mean for the museum's future? Is this the end of AMOA's pursuit of a new facility of its own?

Not at all, says AMOA board of trustees President Lynn Sherman. In fact, the sale of the land was instigated by the museum's desire to find a way to move forward on the project that last stalled out two years ago this month when Houston-based developer

Hines Interests LP withdrew from a partnership with AMOA to buy the eastern half of the block for a 30-story office tower. According to Sherman, in January 2010, the board began exploring all available property in the central business district – which he defined as being between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barton Springs Road and just west of MoPac to just east of I-35 – to look for raw land on which a new facility might be constructed or an existing building that might be repurposed into a museum. In late spring, the board also started to entertain new options on the block it owns: offers to purchase the lot, in part or in its entirety, or to co-develop the lot with AMOA as Hines was to do. “Everything was on the table,” says Sherman. After study and discussion, “We decided that the best-case scenario was for us to sell the lot.” Proposals were made by assorted developers and investment groups, as well as the county, and the board ultimately decided to go with the county. “What was appealing about the county,” notes Sherman, “was that it was a cash sale.” And with AMOA's bank account beefed up by \$21.75 million, the

museum would have an unprecedented resource for realizing its dream of a Downtown home. Notes Sherman, whose tenure on the board goes back to both the folding of the 2008 plan and the cancellation of the Richard Gluckman design in 2000 and who chaired the board after the tech bust, “We’ve never started one of these capital campaigns with \$22 million in cash in the bank.” The three previous efforts all came at the back end of booms and suffered as the economy went south. “This time, we’ve got no boom, and we’ve got the time to make a sound decision, and we’ve got a significant amount of money in the bank. We’ve just never been in that position before.”

Sherman isn't ready to release any information regarding a way forward to a new museum with that \$21.75 million, but he does allow that the board has identified some reasonable options within the central city. He's quick to add, however, that the board is in no rush to land a new site. Any process for determining a location for and construction of a new museum will be in line with the process leading to the sale of AMOA's land: “deliberate and thorough.” “The first consideration for us is what location makes the most sense for the museum.” (For more on the county's purchase of AMOA's land, see “The Sky's the Limit,” News, p.20.)

– Robert Faires

The one that got away: 2008 proposal for the block to be shared by AMOA and Hines' office tower



November 2010 saw the passing of more than one influential and beloved theatre educator of long standing in Central Texas. Two weeks after the death of University of Texas historian Oscar Brockett, Texas State University lost Charles Pascoe, professor of Child Drama and the director of children's theatre at the school for almost 30 years. His death on Tuesday, Nov. 23, resulted from complications following a ruptured aneurysm in his abdomen. He was 69.

A career in children's theatre in Central Texas was not what one would have expected of this native of the Great White North. Given his birth in Winnipeg, Canada; training as a speech pathologist at the University of North Dakota; and several years of fieldwork in southeastern Minnesota, you'd have figured he was meant to help kids in the northern Midwest learn to speak. But when a teaching stint at a private college that didn't have a speech pathology department shunted him into the drama department, Pascoe discovered his true calling, writing plays for children. Writing two plays, *Emperor Toad* and *Foxtales*, that he toured successfully through the region propelled him to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he pursued a doctorate in theatre. Once it was obtained, he journeyed to San Marcos and the Department of Theatre at Southwest Texas State University – now Texas State – and never left.

In his first year, Pascoe began touring children's theatre to elementary schools across Central Texas and kept it up every spring for 25 years, reaching as many as 13,000 people per tour. The shows were ones he created himself, more than a dozen original musicals over the years, such as *Candlestein*,

Cave Song, *Gecko 43*, *The Next Amendment*, *Rodeo Mongolia*, *Kingfishers 3 and Blue*, and *A Gathering of Spirits*. Pascoe typically featured animals as protagonists, and on occasion, as in *Oracle of the Balcones*, drew on his Texas surroundings for inspiration. In 1984 and 1985, his plays *Backyard Story* and *Foxtales* represented the state of Texas at the International Children's Festival, and in 1995, he took *Foxtales* all the way to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. He stopped touring in 2008 but continued to direct at the school. He was slated to stage a production of his play *Slavemaker* in February; following his death, the production was canceled.



CHARLES PASCOE

In memoriam

Pascoe received numerous honors through the years, among them the Faculty Senate Everette Swinney Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Dean's Seminar Creative Achievement Award from the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and the Texas Educational Theatre Association's College/University Educator of the Year award. But his greatest rewards came from the elementary school students who saw and responded to his plays and the student-teachers he trained in creative drama. These last are Pascoe's legacy and will continue to share his ideas, lessons, and plays with young people for generations to come.

Pascoe is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons Jonathan and Benjamin; daughters Hilary and Emily; and grandson Sean Thomas Gossett. A scholarship fund is being established in Pascoe's name, and contributions are welcome. For more information, contact the Texas State University Department of Theatre and Dance at www.theatreanddance.txstate.edu.

– R.F.

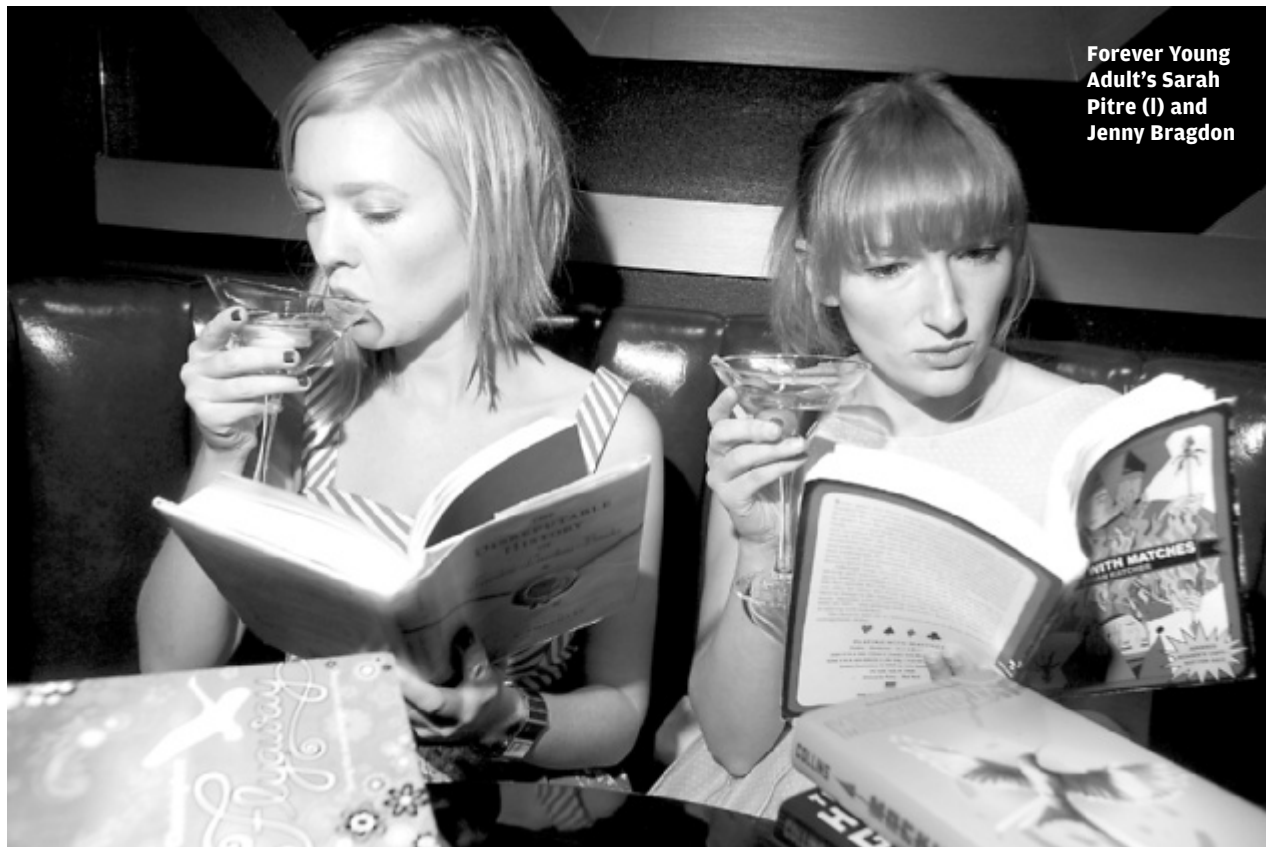


D BERMAN GALLERY

Relocation, relocation, relocation

Have you ever spent 10 years in one place and decided it was time for a move? Well, then you can empathize with David Berman, who has decided that a decade is long enough to commute to Austin from Wimberley and so will be moving his successful and award-winning D Berman Gallery from its longtime home on Guadalupe and 17th Street to the Central Texas town that Berman and his wife Ellen call home. The announcement promises the new location will offer the same high-quality contemporary art and service, just 30 miles to the west. Local fans may still enjoy two shows before the gallery pulls up stakes: a group show celebrating D Berman's 10th anniversary, including work by pretty much every artist who's shown there since 2000, including Ellen Berman, Malcolm Bucknall, Faith Gay, Jimmy Jalapeño, George Krause, Catherine Lee, Lauren Levy, Marjorie Moore, Naomi Schlinke, and Steve Wiman; and a two-person show of new work by Beverly Penn and Sydney Yeager. The group exhibition is up through Jan. 22. The Penn/Yeager show runs from Jan. 28 to Feb. 26. D Berman Gallery is at 1701 Guadalupe (for the next couple of months, that is). For more information, visit www.dbermangallery.com.

– R.F.



Forever Young Adult's Sarah Pitre (l) and Jenny Bragdon

Arrested Development?

Young-at-heart Austin is home to a booming Young Adult literature scene

BY MELANIE HAUPT

Read Cynthia Leitich Smith's *Tantalyze* series, and you may never look at those Congress Avenue bats the same way again. In 2007, the series' first book followed the exploits of 17-year-old Quincie, a riff on the strapping Texan dude in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The story is densely populated by werewolves, vampires (Quincie helps her uncle run a vampire-themed restaurant in Austin, complete with a vampire head chef who specializes in blood sausage), evil undead queens, fallen angels, and wereopossums. The third book, *Blessed*, sees recently vamped Quincie and the angel Zachary on a mission to defeat the power-hungry chef as he assumes the position of *Dracula Prime*.

It's fitting that this story takes place in Austin, Leitich Smith's home and, as she puts it, "a brilliant juxtaposition of ex- and next-gen hippies, good-time Bubbas, urban cowboys, hikers, bikers, college students, ... casual techies, world-class academics, the old guard, dot-com money, and just enough button-down types to keep the 'Dillos running on time."

In many ways, the wedding of Victorian gothic to Austin's buzzing eclecticism within the context of Young Adult literature – itself a crazy amalgam of genres – is the perfect metaphor for the town itself. And it just so happens that Austin is a literary hotbed for the production and consumption of YA fiction. Austin and YA lit offer something for everyone, from dark, paranormal romances featuring werearmadillos to powerfully realistic portrayals of Southern racism during the Civil Rights movement.

After Anne of Green Gables

Forget about plucky babysitters, globe-trotting blue jeans, and toothsome blond twins. Forget about butterbeer-swilling wizard youth and those damn sparkly vampires. Hell, forget

about the Greasers and Socs or learning how to navigate the uniquely terrifying world of sanitary napkins that you read about when you were a kid. These days, teen lit is all about vampires, zombies, angels, and unicorns, but it's also about hate crimes, homosexuality, rape, and dystopian nightmares.

And yet, despite the weightiness of the issues, YA lit is currently enjoying a heyday it hasn't seen since the 1970s, when S.E. Hinton, Judy Blume, and Robert Cormier (author of *The Chocolate War* and *I Am the Cheese*) dominated the teen literature landscape with their narrative ponderings on class, identity, violence, and sexual awakening. The difference is that back then, it was mostly just young people reading those books. Today, teens and grownups alike devour YA titles like a kid goes through candy on Halloween night.

Some pinpoint the *Harry Potter* phenomenon as the defining moment in which middle-school readers, teens, and their parents started reading the same thing. Others point to *Twilight* as the bellwether of the YA surge among both kids and adults; those who don't want to credit Stephenie Meyer's bloated, poorly edited epic series for the explosion point out other titles in the contemporary YA canon. "I'd say 2006, the year Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* and M.T. Anderson's *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: The Pox Party* came out, was a watershed year," says Vicky Smith, children's editor at Kirkus Reviews. "Suddenly the world seemed to realize what YA-literature specialists have

known for a long time: There's some amazing, mind-bending writing going on for teens."

In the past decade, YA literature has seen a blossoming of subgenres, from steampunk, of which Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* is the exemplar, to gothic historical romance (Jane Eagland's *Wildthorn*); meanwhile, manga, imported from Japan, has exploded on the heels of the mid-Nineties popularity of *Sailor Moon*.

Says John Sellers, Children's Reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly*: "Paranormal books, in every permutation imaginable – from vampires to zombies to werewolves to angels to demons – continue to dominate the YA section, as they have for the last few years. The dystopian genre, which got a big boost from the success of *The Hunger Games*, is also very strong, again with writers trying to carve out niches, whether it's environmental cataclysms, totalitarian governments, or seemingly utopian futuristic societies."

In other words, we've come a long way since *Little Women*, baby.

ATX Export Goods

In the late 1990s, a number of ascendant young writers founded the Austin chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, which now serves as the hub of the small, close-knit community of children's and YA authors populating this literary hot spot. Leitich Smith, an original member of this scene, recalls those nascent days when the local YA scene began to coalesce: "While there were already working authors in Austin, this centralized the scene.

"As a Native author, I often joke that it's the tribe of my heart. But I'm not really kidding, and it's really not just my heart. These are the people I turn to when I want to talk about a story snag. But they also offer career and daily life support. I do my best to return in kind. Everyone is welcome in the conversation, valued as a colleague, and appreciated as a friend."

Among this tribe are the Delacorte Dames and Dude, who learned via a SCBWI meeting that they were all published by Delacorte Press, a division of Random House. These six writers, including Bethany Hegedus, who recently relocated to Austin from New York in order to be a part of this vibrant scene, meet regularly to focus on the professionalization aspects of their writing careers. The DDDs often appear at book-release events as a package deal.

"Austin is teeming with talent!" gushes Kirkus Reviews' Vicky Smith. "And it's not just writers. One of the coolest things I did as part of the [Texas Book Festival] was live Twitter coverage of the Zombies vs. Unicorns event, and the place was packed with engaged, excited readers. It was really heartening to see so many teen readers turn out for it."

Curated by Kimberly Whitmer, a graduate student in information studies at the University of Texas, Zombies vs. Unicorns pitted 17 popular YA authors, including Meg Cabot (*The Princess Diaries*), Scott Westerfeld, and Justine Larbalestier (*Liar*), against one another on either Team Unicorn or Team Zombie in support of the recently

released short-story anthology, *Zombies vs. Unicorns*. Authors had to argue the virtues of their given teams extemporaneously ("Unicorns sparkle like Edward Cullen!") in the first round, then design mascots for their teams in the second. Team Unicorn won the audience's heart and loyalty, not to mention rabid interest in future events of its kind at the Texas Book Festival.

"We like talking about YA, and while I think that intellectual discussion of it is awesome, that's not how we talk about it at a bar. So I wanted to replicate what the conversation feels like."
– Sarah Pitre, co-founder of ForeverYoungAdult.com

The event's success was not lost on the festival's literary director, Clay Smith. "YA events for us are always harder to do than adult events. Even the YA panels are harder because you don't really know who's going to come in. We ultimately hope that teens are going to our YA events, because ultimately that's whom those events are meant for. We don't really care, as long as the room is full, but you just don't know whom you're planning it for. You're programming in the dark. Teenagers won't come to events with the word 'teen' in the title."

Don't tell that to the Austin Teen Book Festival, a one-day event held at Westlake High School; the inaugural festival was just last fall, but there was presumably enough interest to inspire a second, which took place on Oct. 2 of this year. The purpose of the festival is to connect teens with YA authors, most notably this year's keynote speaker, Ellen Hopkins, whose *Crank* series was inspired by her daughter's addiction to crystal meth. Hopkins was at the center of a firestorm this summer when she was disinvited from participating in the Teen Lit Fest in Humble, Texas, due to the controversial nature and content of her novels. After the invitation was revoked, all the other participating authors (a number of whom attended the Austin festival) pulled out, and the event had to be canceled. Meanwhile, young readers and their grownups traveled from all over the state to attend Austin's fledgling event.

The success of events like *Zombies vs. Unicorns* and the Teen Book Festival only serves to underscore what people in the publishing industry already know: Austin's YA literature community is becoming too important to overlook.

BookPeople and Book People

Of course, no conversation about Austin's literary scene is complete without mention of our formidable independent bookstore. "For authors doing major national book tours, it's almost a given that they'll be stopping in Austin, especially since BookPeople is such a major player," says John Sellers of *Publishers Weekly*. "I think the store's influence is pretty clear, having launched the latest *Wimpy Kid* book recently, not to mention its hugely successful literary day camps based on the *Percy Jackson* and *Ranger's Apprentice* series."

In addition to being the primary resource for nearly all of the major YA and children's book-release events in town, BookPeople also plays host to one of the small-but-growing number of book clubs dedicated to YA literature. The Not Just Another Teen Book Club, facilitated by Madeline Smoot, is only a few months old but has already evolved into a tiny community of avid readers, girls ages 14-16, two of whom travel from Waco for the monthly meetings. The girls' interests are surprising: "The fantasies and non-issue realistic novels are the ones

CONTINUED ON P.28

Further Reading

SARAH PITRE AND JENNY BRAGDON (FOREVER YOUNG ADULT) RECOMMEND:

***Sweethearts* by Sara Zarr.** Says Bragdon: "It is so beautifully melancholy. Just such an amazingly well-written story that makes you want to go back and re-read the passage you just read because it was just so beautiful."

***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart.** Says Pitre: "Probably one of the most feminist YA books out there right now."

***Chaos Walking* trilogy by Patrick Ness.** Says Pitre: "A dystopian trilogy that is an allegory for the overload of information in our society, terrorism, and war. Succeeds where *The Hunger Games* failed."

BECKY KAPES OSMON (YOUNG ADULT @ HEART) RECOMMENDS:

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.** "A story about a little girl in Nazi Germany told from the point of view of Death, this is the book I recommend for people who say YA is frivolous."

***Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan.** "Two great authors tell intersecting stories about teenage boys with the same name, which sounds gimmicky, but the result is beyond charming and surprisingly moving."

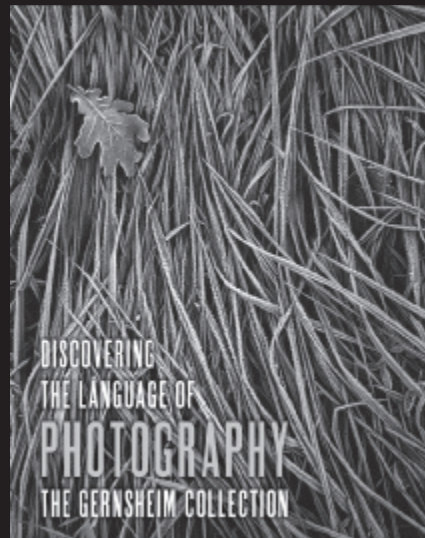
***The Uglies* series by Scott Westerfeld.** "Set in a futuristic high tech world where everyone becomes stunningly pretty at 16, this series is action-packed and whip-smart, with one of my favorite YA protagonists of all time."

***Liar* by Justine Larbalestier.** "The book we come back to discussing at almost every meeting – not only suspenseful and completely engrossing, but it's a crash course in reading critically."

***My Life as a Rhombus* by Varian Johnson.** "An authentic, funny, and heartfelt story about teenage pregnancy that never gets preachy, narrated by one of the most realistic teenage voices I've ever seen in print."



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The Young Adult @ Heart book club convenes at Cherrywood Coffeehouse.

they all want. I can't even get them to take *free* historicals," says Smoot. "Between school, activities, and their studies, they don't have a lot of time to read, so for now they prefer more escapist literature."

Two branches of the Austin Public Library also host teen book clubs (www.connectedyouth.org/teen_bookclub.cfm). Children Services librarian Elizabeth Murphy facilitates the four-year-old Yarbrough Branch Library group, which is 10-15 members strong and meets monthly; Murphy draws the club's selections from a complicated matrix of what's hot, best-of lists, classics like *The Outsiders*, and the Texas Library Association's Lone Star Reading List, among others. The group, comprising youth from Central Austin and homeschooleders from bedroom communities like Lago Vista and Buda, also skews heavily female but boasts three boys who attend regularly. Murphy observes that while the older girls have moved on to adult novels and classics, their tastes do still incorporate the darker, romantic titles, such as *Shiver*, a *Twilight* knockoff about a poetry-reading werewolf-boy in love with a curious girl. "The younger girls and guys say, 'Too depressing!' They like fantasy," says Murphy. "The fact that teen literature is so intertwined with popular culture now makes it much easier to keep teens coming to a library book club. I thank *Twilight* and its sequels for giving the Yarbrough book club a good start."

Michelle Beebower, Teen Services librarian at the University Hills Branch Library, leads a very different teen book group on the Eastside. Her core group of five or six teens is mostly male and all Hispanic. Beebower initially had to use free pizza to entice potential attendees to the book group meetings, but her core group has come consistently for two years running, free chow notwithstanding. "What has been very heartwarming for me is that I have had kids move away, but they still come back for programs even if it means riding the bus!"

she says. "So I also have kids from Del Valle and Central East Austin as well."

The University Hills teens tend to prefer darker themes. "My teens definitely gravitate towards death and violence, being trapped by society and the end of the world," Beebower explains. "The kids really like the dark stuff. But we've had some amazing and sometimes scary philosophical discussions about how all of these things translate into the real world."

This collection of teen-lit book groups and the titles and themes they are attracted to raises a sticky question, the answer to which might rely heavily on gender, race, and class stereotypes: What do readers look for in YA literature? What is behind its staggering popularity? The easy answer is that literature – and here I mean *all* literature – is a place in which an author, and by extension a culture, negotiates the zeitgeist. More locally, it is a site in which a reader can negotiate his or her *own* zeitgeist, which is cause for reflection in any city that cares about its youth.

That said, the common denominator among most YA lit titles is the story of growing up, whether you're a smart girl's brain in a super-model's body (see Meg Cabot's *Airhead* series) or a preacher's son in Virginia in love with a bad girl who resists being reformed (see Varian Johnson's *Saving Maddie*). And it's a trope so readily identifiable that its appeal is ageless in more ways than one. Johnson, the sole Dude among the Delacorte Dames, agrees: "I do think the themes prevalent in most YA novels transcend age. The protagonists in YA novels struggle with so many issues – their beliefs,

their place in the world, themselves – that resonate with both teens and adults. Personally, I love the classic 'coming of age' feel of a YA novel, where the main character is discovering who he is and who he wants to be, and I'd guess that a lot of adult readers like the same type of books."

Says Vicky Smith: "Being a teenager is largely about becoming an adult, isn't it? [If] teens and adults are on a spectrum, it's not really surprising that both teens and adults find themselves fulfilled by the same books, regardless of the audience publishers apply to them. People who have passed that developmental stage don't lose their fascination with what it was like to move from childhood through young adulthood to adulthood, which, I think, is another reason books for teens are crossing over to adult audiences."

Take, for example, the Young Adult @ Heart book club (www.yaatheart.com), founded by Becky Kapes Osmon, who found her previous book club struggling with the slog of capital-"L" literature. An English major and lifelong reader, Osmon realized that she was drawn to YA literature and that she and her friends found themselves reading and recommending titles from within the field again and again. So Osmon and her husband made it official about a year ago; the group, which has grown by word of mouth, now boasts a membership of about 30 people, about half of whom attend the monthly meetings at Cherrywood Coffeehouse. The group draws its selections from both contemporary works (the discussion of *Mockingjay*, trilogy capper of *The Hunger Games*, published in August, drew record numbers) and classics like *The Chocolate War*. Osmon, who has a YouTube channel devoted to her video reviews of Nancy Drew mysteries (www.youtube.com/nancydrewreviews), thinks that YA lit offers adults the opportunity to hash out tricky topics. "As an adult, I really appreciate the way that YA handles what I would consider more adult issues like sexuality, consumerism, war; the take on them is different from the way adult fiction would cover it. It's more plot-driven, but it also really shows that even within the scope of these huge issues, people can still be hopeful and transform on a personal level."

Clay Smith agrees. "I don't think there's a lot of other portals for that. Even for adults, because our media has become so sort of slapdash but also antipodal. It's either this way or that way, not a lot of gray areas. YA literature really wrestles with that stuff in a topical, emotional way, that someone who is an adult literary fiction writer may not do."

Or, as a lay reader might put it, sometimes you just want a narrative without all the post-modern navel-gazing, and sometimes you want to indulge your inner OMG! – which is where Forever Young Adult comes in.

Never Grow Up

In the summer of 2009, local blogger Sarah Pitre decided to launch a blog solely dedicated to her love of YA literature, namely out of a desire to find other consenting adults with whom to discuss her latest reads rather than foisting discussions onto her friends and loved ones. Realizing that she couldn't take on this project by herself, she recruited her friend Jenny Bragdon, a fellow lover of YA lit, to contribute. Thus, www.foreveryoungadult.com was born.

"We like talking about YA, and while I think that intellectual discussion of it is awesome, that's not how we talk about it at a bar," explains Pitre. "So I wanted to replicate what the conversation feels like when Jenny and I are hanging out, having cocktails, and talking about *The Hunger Games*."

Forever Young Adult, written by Pitre, Bragdon, and two others, is peppered with breezy breakdowns of YA titles old and new, from *Flowers in the Attic* to hot-off-the-presses titles like *Rosebush* by Michele Jaffe (released Dec. 7). Reviews take the form of "book reports" and rate novels on the following rubric: "bff charm" (is the character likable and worthy of sitting with at lunch?), "swoon-worthy scale" (Edward is totes a 10), "talky talk" (does the author successfully capture the authentic teenage voice? If so, he or she is "2 legit 2 quit"), with bonus points for cool best friends or art nerds. Each book report wraps up with a declaration of relationship status ("Secret Boyfriend," "Going Steady"); successful, deeply affecting books might rate an "ILU4LIFE," while others merely rate "booty call."

"I do think the themes prevalent in most YA novels transcend age. The protagonists in YA novels struggle with so many issues – their beliefs, their place in the world, themselves – that resonate with both teens and adults."

– YA author Varian Johnson



The playful, irreverent tone of *Forever Young Adult* is emblematic of the balancing act the adult consumer of YA literature performs, enjoying teenage angst from the safe remove of adulthood while taking genuine pleasure in the cultural product. "I wanted it to be a place where we could be frank about enjoying the sex in a book or enjoying anything that might get a book banned," says Pitre. "We hope we earn people's trust, because there is a lot of YA out there and we see it as our role to guide readers toward books that are really worth reading."

"That's our biggest mission," adds Bragdon, "to promote well-written books that happen to be in the YA genre."

What better place to explore YA lit, both as a YA and a regular A than in Austin, which itself could be read as a YA genre? Here, you never have to grow up, even if only within the pages of a book. ■

Locavore Lit

Check out some of Austin's YA authors and their most recent (or upcoming) titles:

Shana Burg, *A Thousand Never Evers* (Delacorte Press, 2008)

Christine Rose, *Rowan of the Wood* (Dalton Publishing, 2008)

Jacqueline Kelly, *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (Henry Holt, 2009)

John Gosselink, *The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter* (Amulet Books, 2010)

Bethany Hegedus, *Truth With a Capital T* (Delacorte Press, 2010)

Varian Johnson, *Saving Maddie* (Delacorte Press, 2010)

April Lurie, *The Less-Dead* (Delacorte Press, 2010)

Chris Barton, *Can I See Your ID?: True Stories of False Identities* (Dial Press, 2011)

Cynthia Leitich Smith, *Blessed* (Candlewick, 2011)

Margo Rabb, *Mad, Mad Love* (Delacorte Press, 2011)

Jennifer Ziegler, *Sass & Serendipity* (Delacorte Press, 2011)

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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

BÔ NO MO' The **Ron King** fashion show at the **Four Seasons** ballroom on Sunday, Dec. 12, was a highly anticipated event. With the opening of his grand and glorious Ron King Salon in the new Four Seasons Residences, King had salons all over town gnashing their teeth and wondering how he snagged such a great opportunity. As one of the priciest salons in Austin, it wasn't really a surprise. But what was a surprise was their big fashion show that concluded a week-end of opening festivities. The PR for the event was great, but no one was prepared for what could politely be described as a clusterfuck. The registration line was backed up all the way to the stairs and moved at a glacial pace. I chose to skip the line, as did dozens of others. It was indeed a dressy event, but after spending more than 11 years on this social and fashion scene, I'd never seen most of these people before. There was more bleached-blond hair in that room than on **Jerseylicious**. Another member of the fashion press asked, "Who are all these people?" "Hair people," I said. "A different breed entirely." Many were out-of-town hairdress-



ROMY JOHN

Not from the Ron King show is this fabulous fashion photo featuring Chronicle couture, designed and photographed by Romy John (www.romyjohnphotography.com).

polite, giving out the best information they had and gingerly handling the restless crowd. They deserve an award for that – especially the one who plucked me out of the crowd and led me to my front-row seats (I arrived with

Kappie Bliss and **Ana Reign** but sat with **Connie Bakonyi** and **Rusty Irons** – she of the **Tina Turner** legs). Seating became a hot issue because there were no reserved seats. In fact, when I left my seat to say hello to a friend at the back of the room, I returned to find I'd been replaced by what appeared to be a peckish hairdresser from a foreign county who bitterly let me know that I was ruining her night. I didn't tell her what I thought, but how could the night be ruined when it had hardly *begun*? Out first on the runway was a **L'Oréal** presentation with models in faux-nude, jeweled bodysuits and faaabulous wigs. It was a brief but intriguing

opening set. Then the man of the night himself, Ron King, came out. I know Ron, and he is an intensely ambitious man – which is not a bad thing at all – but he came off that night like **Anthony Robbins**, with an almost too-polished, professional-inspirational manner that can seem arrogant. He had every reason to be proud that night; this is a very big step up for him from the chic but relatively humble **Bô Salon** on SoCo (which he still owns) to an eponymous, drop-dead-chic facade in the Four Seasons Residences. But I digress. The fashion show, the real

reason we were there, began. Models wearing clothing by New York designer **Thuy** (pronounced "twee") came out. I was completely underwhelmed by the clothes. Yes, some were pretty enough, but most looked like that made-for-TV kind of fashion that's so prevalent among young designers. Personally she was very sweet, and I was enchanted by the little **Jack Russell terrier** she carried with her, since one of our family's furry little friends, **Campbell**, a 3-year-old Chihuahua, had died that morning. So we bonded, but not over her designs. OK, the hair. The lighting was great; the sound was fine; all the elements of a good show were there. But the hair – I wanted to see glamour, I wanted at least to see variety, but I was sadly disappointed. With two exceptions, the models all had the same hair: long hair rolled up into a page boy, secured with visible bobby pins. The bangs were swooped to the side and secured with visible bobby pins. Then there were ratty pieces of hair pulled out, sticking out here and there. What. Ever. It looked like they'd put the models in a darkened room with a box of bobby pins and told them to get to it. The show was to celebrate the grand opening of the grandest salon in town, and we got *dreadful* hair. Where was the sense of showmanship and drama that might have shown off King's *real* skills? The kind of hair that was shown is that sort of standard avant-garde hair that we saw on the runways of **Ann Demeulemeester** or **Yohji Yamamoto** in the Nineties, but it worked for them. It certainly did not work with Thuy's designs. It simply didn't look like hair that you'd want to spend hundreds of dollars on, especially since it appeared to be engineered to look like you did it yourself. Toto, I don't think we're in Bô anymore. The very best part of the show? Ron King gave a scholarship to an **American YouthWorks** student.

ers who had been taking classes at the salon that day. Some were clients; some didn't seem sure why they were there. But who cares? We were going to see a Real. Big. Fashion. Show. Or were we? The reception area was uncomfortably crowded and strangely uptight. The open bar turned out to be a single drink ticket, and no one knew anything about the seating arrangements. Despite what seemed to be shaping up as a disaster, Ron King's staff was calm and

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food

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Hairston Creek Farm, www.hairstoncreekfarm.com
Springdale Farm, www.springdalefarmatx.com
Tecolote Farm, www.localharvest.org/tecolote-farm-M406

Gift certificates at local farm stands or farmers' market booths

We've spied them everywhere from Boggy Creek Farm to Local Baby – there are plenty of great deals out there.

Restaurant gift cards Many local restaurants are offering gift cards in various denominations this season, and who doesn't love going out to eat for free?

Charitable donations are the perfect gift for the hard-to-buy-for person who already has everything. Make a generous, tax-deductible donation in the name of a loved one to the Capital Area Food Bank, Urban Roots, the Green Corn Project, Sustainable Food Center, or any other food-related nonprofit.

Con' Olio Oils & Vinegars (10000 Research #130, 342-2344) This shop in the Arboretum offers bottles of extra virgin olive oils and flavored balsamic vinegars in various sizes suitable for stuffing in stockings. It also offers different olive-oil-of-the-month clubs in three-, six-, or 12-month increments.

Blue Heron bourbon cajeta at Antonelli's Cheese Shop (4220 Duval St., 531-9610) Blue Heron goat dairy near Waller, Texas, makes wonderful cheeses but also creates a handmade goat's milk cajeta (plain or flavored with bourbon) that's simply marvelous. While you're in Antonelli's, consider gift certificates for the cheese lovers on your list.

Bee Local T-shirts from Edible Austin. Locavores will love the ultra-soft and comfy cotton T-shirts and wear them with pride. Order at www.edibleaustin.com.

Kuhn Rikon cupcake decorating kits I found these in several stores and catalogs this year and had to have one. Kits include squeezable decorating bottles with tips, an offset icing spatula, and a cupcake corer for hollowing out cupcakes for fillings.

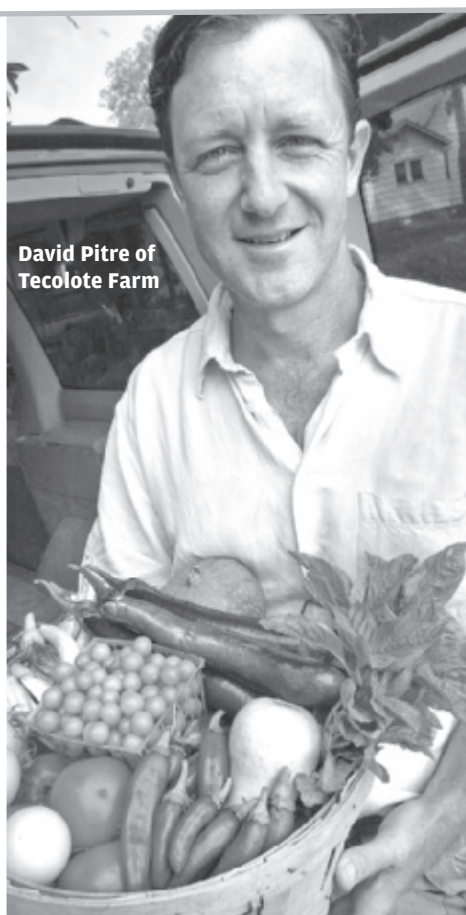
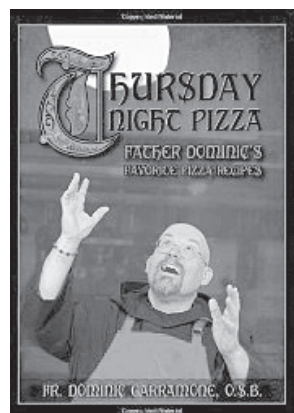
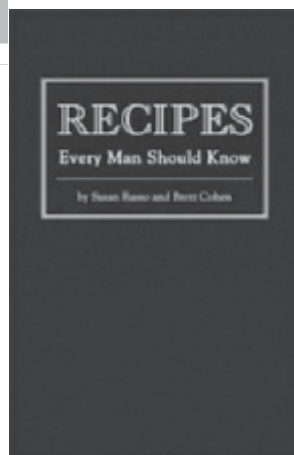
Recipes Every Man Should Know by Susan Russo and Brett Cohen (Quirk Books, \$9.95, 140 pp.). This could easily become as indispensable as the other little black book of any man who wants to demonstrate his prowess in the kitchen or simply feed himself well on a regular basis: With well-organized, approachable recipes with prep and cooking times, this book is extremely functional.

Thursday Night Pizza by Fr. Dominic Garramone (Reedy Press, \$16, 115 pp.). Pizza-loving teens will find this slim volume irresistible and could possibly be inspired to have the family enjoy good, homemade pizza weekly.

Event Menu Dec. 23-31

- At the request of vendors, the **Barton Creek Farmers Market** will be open in the Barton Creek Square mall parking lot on Thursday, Dec. 23, 8-11am.
- The holiday farmstand at **Boggy Creek Farm** (3414 Lyons Road) will be open Friday, Dec. 24, 9am-1pm.
- Ciola's Italian-American Restaurant** (1310 RR 620 S., 263-9936) hosts a traditional Italian Christmas Eve Feast of the Seven Fishes for \$65. Reservations suggested. Friday, Dec. 24, 4-10:30pm.

34 The Fresh and the Cured 35 Restaurant Roulette



David Pitre of Tecolote Farm

JOHN ANDERSON



Con' Olio Oils & Vinegars



Antonelli's Cheese Shop

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food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Anecdotal evidence from local caterers indicates this really has been an austere Christmas season, with far fewer corporate, business, and private-party bookings all over town. That could explain why all the holiday restaurant openings are attracting so much attention – they're a good excuse to get dressed up and go out to enjoy food and drinks at bargain prices. Last week, Austin's glitterati attended the opening festivities at the stunning new **W Hotel** and its restaurant, **Trace** (200 Lavaca, 542-3660, www.traceaustin.com). Breaking with their traditional model, the brand-conscious powers that be at Starwood Hotels chose not to partner with a high-profile-celebrity-chef restaurant for the Austin property. Instead, they've opted for a locally focused concept with an Austin-centric vibe, presenting what they describe as "conscious cuisine." The kitchen at Trace is under the direction of Executive Chef **Paul Hargrove**, who will be ably assisted by official forager **Valerie Broussard**, who formerly held the same post at the Barr Mansion. Broussard's job will be to develop relationships with area farmers, ranchers, fishermen, artisanal food producers, and distributors in order to stock the Trace larder with sustainable items that are "foraged, farmed, crafted, or hunted." "We define conscious cuisine as utilizing local resources to guide our menu, which is seasonally driven with selections chosen to create minimal impact on the environment," says Hargrove. The dining facilities include the main dining room, a private party room, the bar, and an outside dining area. Trace serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and weekend brunches. It should be fascinating to see how well the kitchen delivers on its lofty opening goals.

Another new spot adhering to the locavore aesthetic is **Barley Swine** (2024 S. Lamar, 917-8425, www.barleyswine.com), the latest venture from second-generation Austin chef **Bryce Gilmore**, who also runs **Odd Duck Farm to Trailer**. As the quirky name implies, Gilmore's main focus at his new brick-and-mortar eatery will be locally raised pork and Austin craft-brewed beer. But his menu will also include other meats and fish, some nationally respected microbrews, and a small, mostly domestic wine list. Look for shared plates, communal dining tables, and Austin's first large bottle format beer service. The cozy, 35-seat space with rustic decor and an open kitchen will be open 5pm-midnight, Monday through Saturday, beginning Wednesday, Dec. 29. Gilmore has a special tasting menu planned for New Year's Eve.

Not all the new-restaurant excitement is happening in the Central city, however. The opening of a modern, casual restaurant designed to embrace Austinites' love of the outdoors was celebrated last week in far North Austin, as well. **Zed's** (501 Canyon Ridge Dr., 339-9337, www.zeds.bz) sits on three wooded acres with a pond and a hike-and-bike trail in the Tech Ridge development near Parmer Lane and I-35. The eatery boasts a **Michael Hsu design**, with scenic vistas, expansive all-weather decks, and a distinctive, indoor-outdoor water feature by Pape-Dawson Engineers. The Zed's menu offers cuisines of the American South and Southwest with a definite Austin flair. The restaurant serves lunch, dinner, and late-night fare with full bar service. Look for an acoustic music lineup sometime in 2011.

The Fresh and the Cured

Two local charcuterie wizards surf the old wave

BY MICK VANN

Bryan Butler (l) and Ben Runkle of Salt & Time at the HOPE Market



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Kocurek Family Charcuterie

www.kocurekfamilycharcuterie.com

Larry Kocurek comes from a long line of Tex-Czech sausagemakers, with two generations of Bohemian relatives before him hunting deer and making sausages around Gonzales, Texas. He met his wife, Lee Ann, in culinary school. “I used to tell him he was going to turn into a sausage. That’s all he ever wanted to eat,” she says. Over the ensuing years, she earned pastry and sommelier degrees, he graduated with cooking school honors, and they moved around for years learning and polishing their crafts in fine-dining restaurants, eventually ending up in Austin.

Lee Ann made gorgeous pastries as an assistant to David Bull at the Driskill, and then went to the Austin Wine Merchant to consult and manage. Larry was executive chef at Roy’s for years before becoming Whole Foods’ senior culinary instructor. For the past seven years, he’s been researching and perfecting his sausage and charcuterie recipes, refining his butchering skills, and connecting with local sources. The Kocureks personally know who produces their ingredients. All the meats are local, free-range, all-natural, and heritage breeds when possible, and all of the fresh produce is seasonal, organic, and local. “I started getting into real food when I was at

Roy’s, and they had a wine cellar that was perfect for curing meats,” says Kocurek. “The wine guys hated it, but the temperature and humidity were ideal.”

Larry and Lee Ann have been making charcuterie professionally for a year and a half, and their business continues to expand. “We decided that we wanted to have fun making a living, doing what we liked to do,” says Lee Ann. They currently sell their products at the six major Austin farmers markets, and they hope to soon add the extremely popular Pearl Farmers Market in San Antonio to that list. They also present two cooking classes a month and put on a quarterly supper club. The hands-on cooking classes range from venison, pig, and duck butchering (which also cover some elements of charcuterie) to classic French sauce classes. Each class ends with a buffet centered on what’s been taught that day, and they all sell out in advance. The supper club is held at Swoop House, the inviting 1924 Craftsman-era location of 2 Dine 4 Fine Catering’s commissary kitchen in East Austin. “They’re five- to eight-course themed dinners that can be from any region of the world,” says Lee Ann. “Everything is all organic and local. Starched linens, formal wine service, interesting folks sitting at communal tables, and always some element of

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On a blustery, cold Sunday at HOPE Market, the aroma and smoke draw you toward Ben Runkle’s booth. There’s a steady line of customers at the Salt & Time Artisanal Salumi and Pickles booth, crowding around a massive Weber Ranch Kettle grill. That particular day, Runkle was offering a couple of hot sandwiches that were very popular with the crowd: a mortadella-style frankfurter in a bun with a slice of dill pickle and a beer-braised bratwurst with grilled onions. This scenario might seem normal to the casual observer – a sausage guy selling grilled sausages at the market – but these were fresh sausages. Not so strange, you might still insist, since that’s what almost all of the local sausage folks make – except that Salt & Time is known for cured sausages and meats, traditional European-style sausages that seldom see a grill.

What makes the whole thing even weirder is knowing that not so long ago, Runkle was a devout vegan living in the Bay Area. Then he decided that eating responsibly by consuming fresh, seasonal, and local fare made more sense environmentally than eating fake chicken produced from soybeans grown elsewhere. If he were to be an omnivore, he had to be one with a conscience, so he embraced the principles of Michael Pollan and joined Marin Sun Farms’ community-supported agriculture program. Marin Sun Farms is run by David Evans and the Grossi family, responsibly producing beef,

veal, pork, and poultry, as well as sheep and goat products, in Point Reyes, Calif. Runkle was so inspired by their methods that he became an apprentice butcher for the company, learning the art of processing and butchering. Artisanal salumi and charcuterie (shar-KOO-ter-ee; the French term for cooked and preserved meat products) were a natural extension of the Old World slow food methods of raising the animals, and Marin Sun had contacts with all of the best local restaurants and delis, which enabled Runkle to work in such holy temples of cured meat as the Fatted Calf in Napa and Avedano’s Holly Park Market in San Francisco. He was able to perfect his curing craft in one of the absolute best places in the States to do so.

After relocating to Central Texas with his wife, Natalie, who’s a talented designer, Runkle found commercial property in Niederwald, set up a butchering operation and a meat curing room, and started expanding his methods into commercial quantities. “The Austin area is ideal for what we do,” says Runkle. “We have amazing responsibly raised animals to start with, from Richardson Farms, Dolce Sweet Farms, Revival Meats, and the rest. The farmers’ market scene is lively, active, and growing. There are a bunch of area organic farms producing quality produce that we use for our meat products and our pickles. And we have a customer base that’s well-traveled and already knows and loves the kinds of products we cure.”

“My specialty is traditional European-style salumi,” he says. “I shy away from the word

our charcuterie involved ... it’s a lot of work, but a lot of fun as well.”

In March, the Kocureks will be expanding their commercial kitchen space, gaining a large walk-in cooler. “Once we have that cooler, we can start doing cured products and concentrate a lot more on wholesale to local restaurants,” says Larry. “Now we make primarily fresh products, but we constantly do small test batches of cured product so that we’re ready when the time comes.” Another future plan is to host three- and four-day camping and hunting excursions to game ranches around the state. “This will be the real deal, Old World style,” says Lee Ann. “Sleeping in tents, incredible food around the campfire, tracking and hunting, dressing and butchering the kill. You’ll be out in nature, not staying in some hotel. We’re real excited about getting these trips going.”

I was lucky enough to attend a weekly tasting, held for the staff so they can personally describe the offerings to the market customers each week. Larry laid out a spread of many products, and we began to taste and critique. The fresh venison sausage is superlative: coarse-textured, vibrantly spiced, moist, and not the least bit gamey. The game boudin of venison and pork with Louisiana



rice has a spicy cayenne kick. The cured venison sausage is dark, deeply rich, and tangy, and absolutely wonderful when accented by the grainy mustard that’s made with beer yeast.

Their Czech-style bacon is smoky and exuberantly piggy. The lean smoked-duck bacon made from the breast magically blends the

'charcuterie' because we tend more towards Italian-style salumi and less towards terrines and pâtés, although we do rillettes and other products. I try to maximize the yield of every pig I get, and not all products are suited to dry-curing. However I'm preserving it, I start with local premium ingredients, respect them as much as possible, and make the best products from them that I can."

Curing like Runkle does is considered the highest form of meat preservation – and the most difficult. "It's all based on salt and time, which is where the name of the company comes from," he says. "I use sea salt, seasonings and spices, and European starter cultures, and then it requires the right temperature, humidity, and time. Some of my products can cure for as long as a year and a half; that's a long time to have money tied up in a product. I can lose as much as 30 to 40 percent of original weight when a product cures, but it's worth it in flavor when it's ready for the customer."

I met Runkle at HOPE Market one Sunday to pick up some products to sample and was introduced to Bryan Butler, who was manning the grill. Butler was a butcher for many years at Wheatsville Food Co-op and has a lot of experience with fresh sausages, so he was a natural fit for Runkle's business. "We will be doing more fresh sausages in the future, so that will help a little on the bottom line while we expand our product line," says Runkle. Salt & Time retails its products at the HOPE Market and through Antonelli's

worlds of duck and pork belly. The "Christmas" or "Charles Dickens" chicken sausage made with cream and brandy is moist and rich, and it's even better when combined with their amazing apple-caramelized-onion marmalade. The chicken sausage turned out to be the best I've ever had: medium-textured, spiced with balance, and surprisingly moist, accented by a dab of the Love Creek apple butter. Pork rillettes schmeared on crusty bread literally melt in your mouth. A spoonful of the velvety chicken-and-duck-liver *pâté de maison* on a cracker makes me instantly forget how much I hate liver. There are two flaky English-style tarts: one with silky slices of braised tongue and chard, the other made with duck, venison, and greens. We demolished the tasting board, with the group reduced to primal grunts and groans of pleasure.

"The selection changes with the seasons and our whims," says Larry. "One week it might be Southeast Asia and France, the next week, Poland and Spain. We just try to have fun and make our customers very happy." Like Larry, I have a deep culinary fondness for sausages, and after sampling a wide variety, I can honestly say the Kocureks are highly skilled in the art of making delicious charcuterie and producing bold and balanced flavors. Go to the farmers' market; you really need to try this stuff. ■

Cheese Shop and sells wholesale to such places as Hotel Saint Cecilia, W Hotel, Black Star Co-op Pub & Brewery, and Aviary Lounge. "We have plans to open our own retail shop and deli in town in the future," he says. "We're looking for the right spot."

Runkle offered me some of Salt & Time's crisp, garlicky pickled okra while I waited for my sausage sandwich. The first thing you notice with the pickled products is that they are crisp and flavorful, with less vinegar than you'd expect, and the taste of the fresh vegetables really comes through. Then I got the sandwich, and it was the best hot dog that I've ever had. The frank, made from grass-fed beef and heritage pork, was moist, spicy, and

rich, with a nice snap from the casing. The addition of porky pancetta and a dill spear pushed it over the top. The Spanish chorizo and Italian salami are both excellent: rich, dark, and well-seasoned, with that wonderful air-cured tang and fat that melts seductively. The pancetta is perfectly flavored, and the thin slices of *longino* transport me to the fantastic *lomo* I've tasted in Spain. A tub of pork rillettes is sinfully rich and decadent when slathered on peasant bread. Salt & Time has hit a high mark, producing dry-cured sausages that any small, traditional village in Italy would be proud of. Runkle is taking the best of our local meats and making them better, using only salt, spices, skill, and patience.

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THE BELMONT This eatery and bar serves fancy drinks to a sea of young professionals decked out and looking for fun. The service is the best in town, but the food is superb on some nights and middling on others. 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300. \$\$\$

BESS BISTRO ON PECAN European, Cajun, and Southern dishes are prepared with organic, local, and homegrown ingredients. A great selection of beer and spirits and a well-thought-out wine list complement the experience. 500 W. Sixth, 477-BESS. \$\$\$

CARMELO'S RISTORANTE offers an upscale Italian and Continental menu in a beautifully restored Downtown railroad hotel. Catch live accordion music five nights a week. 504 E. Fifth, 477-7497. \$\$\$\$

CHEZ NOUS This grand-mère of Austin's French restaurants offers classic bistro fare. After all these years, we're still partial to the *salade lyonnaise* and the elegant *mousse au chocolat*. 510 Neches, 473-2413. \$\$\$

DRISKILL GRILL presents a grand and sophisticated experience you can share with the most exciting Manhattanite. Housed in the ornate Driskill Hotel, the grill is home to cuisine that is hardly economical but certainly provides value. 604 Brazos, 391-7162. \$\$\$\$

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE You'll find fine dining in a supper-club atmosphere, with live music almost every night. Eddie V's specializes in fresh seafood, oysters, and prime beef. Try the Rose Filletini. 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860. \$\$\$\$

KENICHI offers freshly ground wasabi, more than 20 different types of sake, and wild-boar gyoza. Kenichi's clientele is as trendy as its decor. 419 Colorado, 320-8883. \$\$\$

LA TRAVIATA ITALIAN BISTRO From sublime starters like roasted beets with goat cheese to the oh-so-succulent beef tenderloin, the food is a model of perfect preparation and clean flavors. Save room for the extraordinary polenta pound cake. 314 Congress, 479-8131. \$\$\$

ROARING FORK The rustic decor – stone, metal, leather, and antlers – and hearty Western entrées with robust side dishes welcome carnivores. 701 Congress, 583-0000. \$\$\$

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE You'll find this nationally recognized steak house in a historic Austin building. Good steaks and à la carte side dishes, plus stock-market quotes for the business crowd. 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884. \$\$\$\$

SHORELINE BAR & GRILL Pan-fusion food of the first order is priced in the upper-moderate range. Don't miss the arctic char with a poached duck egg on top and seared scallops with hazelnut brown butter. Watch out for the stampedé at lunch. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300. \$\$\$

SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE The perfect meal here is the 22-ounce "Cowboy Cut" rib eye, along with its justifiably famous wedge of iceberg slathered with decadent blue-cheese dressing. 300 Colorado #200, 495-6504. \$\$\$\$

TAVERNA Find a variety of Italian staples such as bruschetta, pasta, risotto, and pizza. Brunch is

served on Saturday and Sunday, and indoor and sidewalk tables are available. 258 W. Second, 477-1001. \$\$

III FORKS A great sommelier, traditional luxury, and prime aged beef keep the crowds coming back. Enormous wedge salads and terrific steak-house sides tempt newcomers. 111 Lavaca, 474-1776. \$\$\$\$

TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS Look out over Lady Bird Lake, and transcend the usual hotel-dining scene. The focus is on unusual and creative preparations of appetizers, side dishes, terrific steaks, and seafood. At dinner, you'll find a special-occasion place with romantic lighting and efficient service. 98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. \$\$\$\$

EAST

BRAISE There is little to distinguish this place from other fine-dining establishments except the prices, which are reasonable for fare such as black bass tartare with candied pecans and pickled-mushroom salad. 2121 E. Sixth, 478-8700. \$\$\$

EASTSIDE CAFE This well-established place has been serving some of the healthiest food on the Eastside for quite a long time. The large herb and vegetable garden in back makes for fantastic fresh plates. 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858. \$\$\$

JUSTINE'S BRASSERIE serves French bistro fare, accompanied by killer cocktails, in a 1930s cottage. You can play a little *pétanque* outside while you wait for the steak frites. 4710 E. Fifth, 385-2900. \$\$

NORTH

MAIN STREET GRILL This elegant oasis whose warm wood and interior columns refer to its former life as a small-town bank is complete with a wine cellar in the intact vault. 118 E. Main St., Round Rock, 244-7525. \$\$\$

ROARING FORK The rustic decor – stone, metal, leather, and antlers – and hearty Western entrées with robust side dishes welcome carnivores. 10850 Stonelake, 342-2700. \$\$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

ASTI For varied Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot. 408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218. \$\$\$

VINO VINO Comfy decor, great wines, surprisingly good food, and reasonable prices keep everybody coming back. 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282. \$\$

SOUTH

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT has been the grande dame of Austin restaurants for more than 50 years. Sipping milk punch at Sunday brunch in this stately Southern mansion is one of Austin's finest traditions. 811 W. Live Oak St., 444-4747. \$\$\$\$

PAGGI HOUSE An eclectic interpretation of American regional cuisine in a sophisticated, revamped setting makes this old favorite a Downtown destination. 200 Lee Barton, 473-3700. \$\$\$



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Square Peg in a Globe-Sized Hole

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

The **Hollywood Foreign Press Association** recently announced their nominations for TV excellence for the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards. There is always a bit of grumbling over the Golden Globes. The idea that a comparatively small group of foreign journalists has an opinion about U.S.-made TV (and film) is usually the first thing detractors reach for when the nominations annoy them. Yet, this year's Golden Globe TV nominations seem to have inspired a louder than normal outcry. Well, for as curious as the Globes' TV nominations are, I think they speak to something the naysayers are overlooking: that the TV-viewing – or shall we say, the “media-viewing” – audience is much more splintered and niche-oriented than ever before. Could it be that the notion that any one awards show could be the standard for declaring excellence has become as archaic an idea as “appointment TV”?

Consider these Globe nominations for Best Television Series – Drama: **Boardwalk Empire** (HBO), **Dexter** (Showtime), **The Good Wife** (CBS), **Mad Men** (AMC), and **The Walking Dead** (AMC).

This lineup serves as an almost perfect snapshot of the current TV landscape: wildly divergent in style and content, with something to appeal to the more mature palate (*Mad Men*) as well as the presumably younger, trendier viewer (*The Walking Dead*). There's only one network TV series nominated here. *The Good Wife* is good, but it just doesn't have the oomph of the other series in its category. And I'm shocked that *The Walking Dead* is included here – not because it doesn't deserve to be but because the sci-fi/horror genre is typically overlooked by all awards programs.

Interestingly, the robustness of network shows compared to cable TV series is flipped in the comedy category: **30 Rock** (NBC), **Modern Family** (ABC), **The Big Bang Theory** (CBS), **Glee** (Fox), **The Big C** (Showtime), and **Nurse Jackie** (Showtime).

Now, I've complained about this before, but I believe it bears repeating: The old categories of “drama” and “comedy” don't sufficiently cover the TV landscape. Case in point: *The Big C*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *United States of Tara* – which all air on Showtime – are not straight dramas, but they're not comedies either. Categories for “dramedy” and sci-fi/horror – and, hey, while we're at it, animated



Comedy? Drama? Dramedy? Maybe it's time to rethink the way we think about hard-to-categorize shows like Nurse Jackie.

series – should be created. And I'm not sure which way I fall on this, but I'm beginning to think that having separate categories for commercial and commercial-free TV might be in order. The need for breaks to accommodate commercials seems to have a distinct effect on dramas, more so than for comedies. Note the heavy appearance of cable series vs. broadcast series in the drama and comedy categories above. Hey, I'm just throwing it out there. Discuss among yourselves.

The nominees for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama are straight from the Emmy playbook: **Steve Buscemi** (*Boardwalk Empire*), **Jon Hamm** (*Mad Men*), **Hugh Laurie** (*House*), **Michael C. Hall** (*Dexter*), and **Bryan Cranston** (*Breaking Bad*).

My choice is Jon Hamm, but I would have included either **Timothy Olyphant** from *Justified* (FX) or **Idris Elba** from *Luther* (BBC America) over Hugh Laurie – the only nominee from a broadcast network series.

That cable over broadcast tilt occurs again among the nominees for best actress in a TV drama: **Julianna Margulies** (*The Good Wife*), **Elisabeth Moss** (*Mad Men*), **Piper Perabo** (*Covert Affairs*), **Katey Sagal** (*Sons of Anarchy*), and **Kyra Sedgwick** (*The Closer*). And it flips back again in the category for best actor in a TV comedy: **Alec Baldwin** (*30 Rock*), **Steve Carell** (*The Office*), **Thomas Jane** (*Hung*), **Matthew Morrison** (*Glee*), and **Jim Parsons** (*The Big Bang Theory*).

The aforementioned “dramedy” question rears up among the nominees for best actress in a TV comedy: **Toni Collette** (*United States of Tara*), **Edie Falco** (*Nurse Jackie*), **Laura Linney** (*The Big C*), **Tina Fey** (*30 Rock*), and **Lea Michele** (*Glee*).

The 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards airs live Jan. 16, 2011, on NBC.

As always, stay tuned.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.



screens

Horror for the Holidays

Dusk to dawn with 'Silent Night, Deadly Night'

BY MARC SAVLOV

"What next – the Easter Bunny as a child molester?"

– Leonard Maltin on *Silent Night, Deadly Night*

While I've always been partial to Bob Clark's seminal Christmastime murderthon *Black Christmas* – released in 1974, it went nuts years before Margot Kidder and laid the bloody groundwork for John Carpenter's *Halloween* four years later – I can still recall the yowling protestations that accompanied the release of *Silent Night, Deadly Night* a full decade later. Catholic groups, parent-teacher associations, Leonard Maltin, and even sporadic horror film devotees Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert went to town on Charles E. Sellier Jr.'s bloodthirsty yuletide freak-out.

In Amarillo, where I lived at the time, picketers thronged the Mann Theatre where the film was showing, and the local, vocal, moral majority (these were the Reagan years, after all) clamored for the film to be pulled from the theatre. No such luck, though: *Silent Night, Deadly Night* went on to spawn four sequels, all of which will be screened at the

Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In Theatre this Christmas Eve.

"There's never been a shortage of truly bizarre holiday movies," notes Vulcan Video's Austin Miller, who, along with Blue Starlite owner Josh Frank, will be introducing the frosty, dusk-'til-dawn bloodshed. "[There's everything] from stuff like *Black Christmas* to the *Star Wars Holiday Special* and supposedly innocuous stuff like *The Magic Christmas Tree*."

Well, yeah, there's bizarre, and then there's the ultra-effective, low-budget shocks of Sellier's original, which takes its backstory cues straight from *Halloween* (innocence corrupted by random familial violence) and then ups the ante by not only kitting out two homicidal killers in St. Nick's crimson garb but by also adding rape and a distinctly anti-Catholic tone to the hellzapoppin' holiday mix. In a borderline nunsplotation role, Lilyan

Chauvin's icy Mother Superior ends up being one of the most transgressive characters in the annals of slasher films, and Robert Brian Wilson's deranged, axe-wielding Billy is a walking nature vs. nurture argument from hell. And you thought eggnog was disturbing.

"*Silent Night, Deadly Night* has always struck me as a pretty dynamic series in the realm of bizarre Christmas films," Miller adds. "The extent to which the first one incurred the wrath of Leonard Maltin has always amused me. It came on the heels of some pretty subversive horror films like *Alice Sweet Alice* and George Romero's *Martin* that dealt with Catholicism in a pretty interesting way. I could talk about how [*Silent Night, Deadly Night*] is a really subversive film, but at the end of the day, it's also just really entertaining and truly weird."

Indeed. But not quite as weird as Monte Hellman's – yes, *that* Monte Hellman – *Silent Night, Deadly Night 3: Better Watch Out*, which stars future devil's reject Bill Moseley and Robert Culp on opposing sides of total insanity and culminates in one of the series' creepiest (or most laughable, depending on your frame of mind) shock endings.

Miller: "Yeah, and as if that isn't weird enough, [*Better Watch Out*] features performances from future David Lynch favorites Eric Da Re and Laura Harring. It's arguably not one of [Hellman's] greatest films, but as far as direct-to-video horror sequels go, it's very good."



Viewed back-to-back, this quintet of season's grievings packs an anti-Festivus wallop that has to be experienced to be believed. And speaking of genuinely freakish cameos, Mickey Rooney turns up in 1991's *Silent Night, Deadly Night 5: The Toy Maker*. That's worth the abandonment of friends and family on Christmas Eve alone. ■

The *Silent Night, Deadly Night* marathon takes place at the Blue Starlite Drive-In on Dec. 24, starting at 6pm. Reservations required for cars; a \$15 pedestrian package is available at the door and includes unlimited popcorn and candy canes, a box of vintage candy, and a soda. See www.starlite.artfilmfood.com for more info.



Clockwise from left: *Black Swan*, *True Grit*, *Winnebago Man*, and *Monsters*

Backing 'Black'

The Austin Film Critics Association announces 2010 awards

The Austin Film Critics Association announced its top picks of the year yesterday, with Darren Aronofsky's psychosexual drama *Black Swan* taking Best Film and an additional four prizes, including a Best Actress win for Natalie Portman. The actress has swept virtually every critics' group awards out there for her turn as a deranged prima ballerina; indeed, her AFCA Best Actress decision was one of only two categories that didn't require a second ballot (Aaron Sorkin's win for Best Adapted Screenplay was the other early lock). The organization also singled out the locally filmed TV show *Friday Night Lights* for a special award honoring its five years of awesomely good, criminally underrated drama (well, in so many words).

The AFCA, a 20-member group culled from Central Texas TV, print, and online organizations, also renamed one of its categories the Robert R. McCurdy Honorary Breakthrough Artist Award in honor of founding member Bobby McCurdy, who died suddenly last week. His family and friends will establish a scholarship in his name that will sponsor high school seniors taking educational trips to Europe before college; see www.austinfilmcritics.org in coming weeks for details.

– Kimberley Jones

Best Film: *Black Swan*

Best Director: Darren Aronofsky, *Black Swan*

Best Actor: Colin Firth, *The King's Speech*

Best Actress: Natalie Portman, *Black Swan*

Best Supporting Actor: Christian Bale, *The Fighter*

Best Supporting Actress: Hailee Steinfeld, *True Grit*

Best Original Screenplay: Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, and John McLaughlin; *Black Swan*

Best Adapted Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin, *The Social Network*

Best Cinematography: Matthew Libatique, *Black Swan*

Best Original Score: Daft Punk, *Tron: Legacy*

Best Foreign Language Film: *A Prophet (Un Prophète)*, France

Best Documentary Film: *Exit Through the Gift Shop*

Best Animated Feature: *Toy Story 3*

Robert R. McCurdy Honorary Breakthrough Artist Award: Chloë Grace Moretz, *Kick-Ass* and *Let Me In*

Best First Film: Gareth Edwards, *Monsters*

Best Austin Film: Ben Steinbauer, *Winnebago Man*

Special Honorary Award: *Friday Night Lights*, for producing excellent, locally made television in Austin for the past five years

Top 10 Films:

- 1) *Black Swan*
- 2) *The Social Network*
- 3) *Inception*
- 4) *Toy Story 3*
- 5) *The King's Speech*
- 6) *True Grit*
- 7) *The Fighter*
- 8) *A Prophet (Un Prophète)*
- 9) *Winter's Bone*
- 10) *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*

The membership of the Austin Film Critics Association includes Marjorie Baumgarten (The Austin Chronicle), Jenn Brown (Slackerwood), Dave Campbell (Smells Like Screen Spirit), C. Robert Cargill (Film.com), Laurie Coker (Hill Country News), Korey Coleman (Spill), Chris Cox (Spill), Cole Dabney (INsite Magazine), Victor Diaz (News 8 Austin), Charles Ealy (Austin American-Statesman), Peter S. Hall (Horror's Not Dead, Cinematical, and Horror Squad), Kimberley Jones (The Austin Chronicle), Jette Kernion (Cinematical), Harry Knowles (Ain't It Cool News), Bobby McCurdy (INsite Magazine), Neil Miller (Film School Rejects), Marc Savlov (The Austin Chronicle), Martin Thomas (Spill), Eric Vespe (Ain't It Cool News), and Chase Whale (GordonAndTheWhale.com). For more info, visit www.austinfilmcritics.org.

What Are You Looking At?

The year in pop-culture fixations

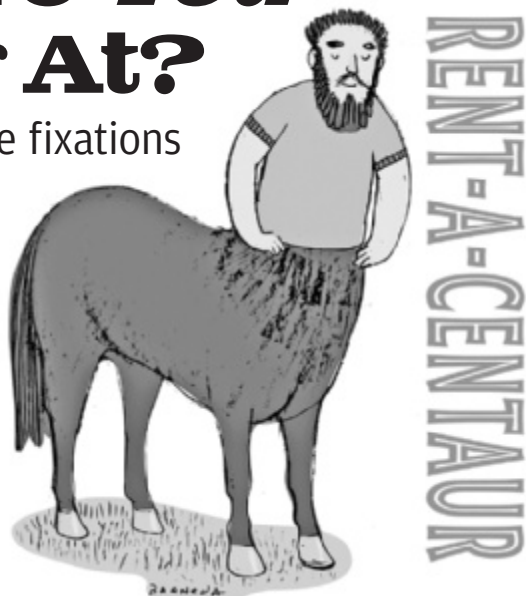
I have a happy fantasy where somebody trips over the Internet's cord and plunges us all into a state of unpluggedness. This year especially, I felt like a hamster in a wheel trying to keep up with all the blogs, newspaper sites, and Twitter feeds that were relevant to my work, not to mention whatever latest video meme I needed to know about for bar chatter. But more often than not, every Web destination just regurgitated the same headlines as the next.

So the pop culture pastimes I enjoyed this year were sites that didn't just repeat content from another source but rather repurposed it in nifty new ways. **Twaggies**, self-described as "a crowdsourced comic," plucks random tweets ("Every time I see a Rent-a-Center, I imagine how much cooler it would be if it were a Rent-a-Centaur. Who wouldn't want to rent a centaur?") and literalizes them with David Barneda's sweetly dorky illustrations. But my absolute favorite mash-up was the short-lived but insanely awesome **www.kanyenewyorkertweets.com**, which replaced the captions of *New Yorker* cartoons with the rapper's giddy, bizarro, 140-character musings. Now hanging above my bed is a photocopy of Alex Gregory's illo of two Viking marauders on a beach with the Kanye'd cutline: "This is gonna be a dope ass day." Word.

— Kimberley Jones

Huh. It seems that my most reliable 2010 media habits were, quite unconsciously, driven by difficult women — Courtney Love, for instance, whose picture is practically in the dictionary next to the term. The vitriol that Ms. Love has inspired is in large part due to her problematic appearance and her insistence on having a loud conversation about it; **whatcourtneyworetoday.com** is the coda to that conversation. Documenting her morph into high-fashion mascot, it's almost contextless, unabashedly superficial, and probably the weirdest thing she's ever done. Sandra Bernhard's talent for mixing pop-cultural observation, righteous politics, and jokes makes her Twitter feed a less complicated delight. @SandraBernhard, @roseannecash, and @Kathy_Valentine have also formed a tweety power trio (twio?), which means a bumper crop of badass women on my feed.

DVR-marathoned *Project Runway* spin-off *On the Road With Austin & Santino* found our heroes traveling the country, outfitting women who by design-world standards are too fat, too poor, and too child-encumbered — another way of being difficult. It's sweet, funny, and



the most womanist makeover show I've seen. In December, I veered in a more macho direction, transfixed by Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco (@ochocinco) and the droll-or-dumb conundra his tweets pose, my favorite being when he calls his Mercury Marauder "the Rolls Royce of cars."

— Cindy Widner



Remember the episode of *Duckman* where everyone in the world thinks that this one really unfunny comedian is hilarious, and Duckman doesn't get the joke, and it drives him to the edge of madness and social alienation? That's my relationship with **www.hipster runoff.com**. It's either the most po-faced, pomo, poorly written website tribute to skinny-jeans-wearing douche baggery ever to hit the Web, or it's an incredibly sophisticated satire at the expense of an entire music and fashion subculture. Is this the sublime and long-overdue alternative to the ultimate bastions of alt-culture at Pitchfork, or is it just some guy in a knock-off American Apparel shirt feuding with the singer of Best Coast because she tweets about her cat? And would I have even heard of Best Coast if it wasn't for the Twitter bitchfest with Hipster Runoff? Frankly, I'm expecting HR founder/author Carles to rip his ironic

mustache off and reveal himself to be grand British satirist Chris Morris. Otherwise, what has happened is that I have looked into the cultural abyss, and it has stared back, wearing Kanye-style shutter shades and a lime-green bandana.

— Richard Whittaker

I would not want to see a pie chart of the websites that sucked my time this year, but I was easily sucked into Google's **Books Ngram Viewer** — it houses 500 billion words from 5 million digitized books, which you can search to see how frequently certain words and phrases appeared from 1800 to 2008 (**www.ngrams.googlelabs.com**). Hours later, you'll realize how many combinations exist. (Between "fudge" and "miracle," the latter fared fairly well until about 1920, while the former did poorly across the century, up until recently.) **Radiolab**, the syndicated radio show/podcast based out of WNYC, had my ear this year, broadcasting segments like "Famous Tumors" and the totally engrossing "Words" piece a few months ago.

The dark side: ABC's *Cougar Town*. The name drove me far away from this show starring Courteney Cox as a fortysomething divorcee, but once I found out it is supposed to take place in Florida, I had to watch at least one episode. The dialogue between Cox and her boozy clutch of gated-community friends is often hilarious, especially the I-love-you-bitch quips between the women. I was pleased to find out the writing staff is almost equally composed of men and women and that the show prominently features a wine glass that holds an entire bottle of wine.

— Audra Schroeder



Following video-game developers on Twitter gets you lots of shoptalk, a dash of criticism, the standard mixture of high-caliber and low-brow links, and just the right amount of inside jokes. I wondered all year why 2010 wasn't the year when indie games made headlines, finally putting to rest the idea that "gamers" are space-Marine-controlling basement-dwellers. No headlines yet, but Independent Games Festival Chair **Brandon Boyer** (@brandonnn) kept us abreast of his whereabouts with Noby Noby Boy, **Wiley Wiggins** (@wileywiggins) shared his insights (e.g., "Dear 4square mayor of Pad Thai Mueller- put your shirt on, dude."), and Schell Games programmer **Bryan Cash** (@Bryan_Cash) made sure the

world knows that gay gamers are out there and out. The requisite nonessential Twitter posts aside, most of the local game devs explored the gaming world as creators and consumers and shared their too-good-for-Twitter insights with the Twittiverse. They also never use the word "Twittiverse." And, if you have more than a thousand followers, aren't Tweets the 2011 equivalent of headlines anyway?

— James Renovitch @renovitch

I've been lurking on **MetaFilter**, the community-driven weblog dedicated to highlighting and discussing "the best of the Web," since I stumbled onto it a decade ago. And while "the blue" — the front-page of the site, which nicely captures the zeitgeist of the Web with user-submitted links — is highly trafficked, lately I've been spending more time on **www.ask.metafilter.com**, its well-regarded subsite, where MeFi members can submit questions and answers. It's proven indispensable this holiday season, as the "Popular Favorites" posts (ranked by users) have featured some great gift suggestions: Ask MeFi's "Gift for an old school manly man?" thread is responsible for my current obsession with vintage-reproduction field watches. And as a holiday respite, it doesn't get any better than "relationship filter," a 21st century agony column where people query for personal advice. But be sure you have an actual question and answer in mind, lest it be deleted by MeFi's light but discerning moderators as "chatfilter."


— Wells Dunbar

If you've never explored the **Internet Archive** (**www.archive.org**), don't start now; your life is short enough as it is already. Then again, why not spend a full 24 hours listening to a full 24 hours of actual Allied (and Axis!) news organizations breathlessly play-by-playing the Normandy invasion? From a complete run of Orson Welles as The Shadow to hours upon hours of Edward R. Murrow speaking to you from London during the Blitz (and from beyond the grave), this self-described "digital library of free books, movies, music & way-back machine" contains all the history you'll ever have time to listen to. And yes, they've also got that goddamn Orson Welles frozen peas blooper reel.

— Marc Savlov



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music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

The New Way

From **Sara Hickman's Texas Music Project** to **Shearwater's** dossier for *The Golden Archipelago* (see "The Empire That Dreams of Us," Feb. 26), **Kickstarter** has helped fund some of Austin's most ambitious endeavors this year. The DIY "crowdfunding" platform allows acts to reach out to their audiences directly for financial support, offering incremental pledge packages akin to an old-fashioned telethon, with the catch that fans are only charged if/when the artist's goal is reached. Kickstarter's also responsible for new albums by **Dana Falconberry**, **Michael Fracasso**, **Zlam Dunk**, **Charlie Faye**, **Soul Track Mind**, and the **Lost Pines**, among others, but no one's been as successful locally as **Fastball** guitarist **Miles Zuniga**, who raised more than \$20,000 in 10 days for his solo project, **These Ghosts Have Bones**. "I don't have a secret," chuckles Zuniga, whose fundraising perks included credit as executive producer, a two-hour songwriting session, and personalized cover songs uploaded to YouTube. "I was as surprised as you are." His solo debut is tentatively scheduled for the spring and features contributions from **Kat Edmonson**, **Bruce Hughes**, and the **Band of Heathens' John Chipman**. "Things have changed pretty drastically in my life," reflects Zuniga. "I went through a divorce and stuff. The universe seems to be saying it's time to go on your own for a while and figure out what that means."



Miles Zuniga

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON



Michael Nesmith

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Five Ongoing Kickstarter Campaigns:

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The **Preservation**, untitled debut

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Michael Nance, frat-folk debut

Goal: \$7,500

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The **Eastern Sea**, debut LP *Plague*

Goal: \$4,000

Best buy: handmade doodle inspired by TES song of your choosing and a copy of the album (\$50) www.kck.st/f80e3y

South by Southwest Roulette

● The **2011 South by Southwest Music Festival** is expanding to include about 10 showcases on Tuesday night. "With increasing interaction between the Interactive and Film conferences, we've been getting more and more requests from acts and music business affiliates to expand," relays Creative Director **Brent Grulke**. The total number of showcasing acts is expected to stay fairly consistent with previous years at about 1,800. While the addition of the new **Austin City Limits Live at the Moody Theater** would seemingly add to SXSW's occasional difficulties filling larger venues, Grulke insists that's not the case. "We already have a good head start on that."

● As part of SXSW, the sixth annual **mtvU Woodie Awards**, the collegiate counter to the **MTV Video Music Awards**, will broadcast live

on both Viacom stations from the **Austin Music Hall** on March 16. Last year's big winners, voted exclusively by students, included **Green Day**, **Kings of Leon**, and **Matt & Kim**.

● The latest SXSW list, released on Monday, includes UK buzz band the **Vaccines**, guitar hero **J Mascis**, slacker-rap duo **Das Racist**, London dubstep collagist **James Blake**, and the **Baseball Project** (lending weight to the possible return of **R.E.M.**). Full list at www.sxsw.com/music.

● The most curious addition to SXSW Music thus far is **Gary Wilson**. The reclusive, proto-New Wave balladeer has made a few public appearances in support of his funkastic new LP, *Electric Endicott*, most notably on *Late Night With Jimmy Fallon*, but he's in need of a backing band. Interested parties should contact brian@westernvinyl.com.

Some of Shelly's Blues

In the 1990s, when most veteran acts still considered the Internet science fiction, **Michael Nesmith** began developing **Video ranch**, a simulated realm for avatars and rock stars alike. On Saturday afternoon, the **Monkees** icon (see "Monkee Dues," Nov. 15, 1996) stepped into his creation, delighting an intimate local audience (and an enthusiastic virtual one) at **Austin Film Studios** for a hourlong acoustic set as part of his **Global Zone Music Festival**. Sporting a 12-string, polarized glasses, and a blue scarf ("In honor of those that have snow for Christmas"), Nesmith, 68 on Dec. 30, opened with one of his earliest classics, "Papa Gene's Blues," and then proceeded to hit all points between that and the title track to his most recent album, 2006's *Rays*. His seminal 1970s country-rock outfit the **First National Band** was well represented ("Calico Girlfriend," "Joanne," "Silver Moon"), but his standard "Some of Shelly's Blues" and lilting closer "Harmony Constant" begged for the technological innovator to assemble a band and play out again. **South by Southwest 2011** would be ideal.

Ring the Bells

It's that time of year again: Critics are making their lists and checking them twice – and decorating with **Bun B's** A Trill Christmas Story box set of crunk wooden ornaments. OTR compiled a list of new, alternative winterlong classics to help get you in the mood for the holiday:

Hayes Carll, "Grateful for Christmas"

The local troubadour recounts a typically dysfunctional family gathering, like a Texas version of *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. Available digitally and on his forthcoming **Lost Highway** sophomore effort, *KMAG YOYO*.

The **Soulphonics**, "All I Want for Christmas Is a Job"

A timely, **Great Recession** ditty with 1960s garage-pop sparkle might strike a little too close to home for proper enjoyment.

Girl in a Coma, "Blue Christmas"

The San Antonio punk trio continues its covers streak with a country rendition of this **Elvis Presley**-popularized tune, avail-



able on the label sampler *A Blackheart Christmas*.

Leatherbag, "Jesus Christ"
The standout from **Superepop Records' Season's Greetings** compilation – it's not the **Big Star** cover you'd expect, but delivers a similar power-pop jingle, immediately offset by the Tex-Mex of the **Archibalds' "Este No Es Una Buena Navidad."** Inquire at info@superepoprecords.com.

Jesse Dayton, "Christmas in Jail"
A politically incorrect remake of an old 1950s doo-wop song that, Dayton says,

"sounds like something that **Dean Martin** would do." Available as a bonus track to the outlaw's latest, *One for the Dance Halls*. www.jessedayton.com.

Watch Out for Rockets, "All I Want for Xmas Is the **Criss Angel** Platinum Magic Kit With Over 250 Magic Tricks"

The title says it all, but that's merely one of the gems from the local lo-fi pop outfit's 13 Days of Xmas series. Download the rest at www.watchoutforrockets.bandcamp.com.



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Urban Tejano

Grammys beckoning, Tortilla Factory reopens for the next generation of business

BY MARGARET MOSER



Tony "Ham" Guerrero flanked by his daughter Laura and son Alfredo.

Tony "Ham" Guerrero's story begins in San Angelo, the real cotton fields of Western songs. Its chapters are soundtracked by time-worn vinyl records – treasured artifacts of another age. Illustrated by a half-century stash of photos, posters, clippings, and mementos, Guerrero's tale embodies Chicano pride told through family and band.

Tortilla Factory birthed a new kind of Latin soul from 1973 into the 1980s, somewhere between Doug Sahm's Westside San Antonio gang and Santana. Funkier than but closely related to the 1960s Latino hybrid of Chicano soul (see "A Browner Shade of Black," Dec. 28, 2007), Guerrero, the trumpeter, built red-hot rhythms, white-rock influence, and brassy Tejano melodies into one explosive sound. Tortilla (as the band's affectionately known)

even claims roots with the kings of Texas Tejano, the legendary brothers Hernandez, Little Joe and Johnny. Finally, Tortilla Factory slapped down its very own trump card in ace singer Bobby Butler.

By the late 1980s, Tortilla Factory posted a "closed" sign. Age and time had taken its toll, and trends in music shifted elsewhere. Guerrero and his family operated a club in Downtown Austin – Club Islas – for four years. And like the seasons and fashion, what goes away usually cycles back around in one form or another.

Guerrero reopened his Tortilla Factory in 2000, reuniting with Butler and introducing his son Alfredo Antonio Guerrero into the band six years later. Their 2008 CD, *All That Jazz*, received a Grammy nomination – grand

affirmation of his decades of work. When Guerrero's health buckled, Alfredo stepped up and took over, bringing in a secret weapon: his sister Laura. Alfredo and Laura now reinvent their father's once-revolutionary sound with contemporary beats that sizzle on Tortilla Factory's 2010 release, *Cookin*.

Topping it off early this month, Tony "Ham" Guerrero received an early Christmas present. *Cookin* landed Tortilla Factory its second Grammy nomination for Best Tejano Album.

The Tejano Freddie Hubbard

Tony "Ham" Guerrero's North Austin abode houses tales of untamed musical youth.

His chair backs thronelike to a dark wood-paneled wall that splays out various framed photos and awards like rays of the sun god. He and Bobby Butler were inducted into the Tejano Roots Hall of Fame, and he's recognized as a Pioneer of West Texas Music at the West Texas Hall of Fame. Certificates and awards also honor his wife, Norma, named Bilingual Teacher of the Year in 2002 for Texas. "She oversees all our compositions and corrects all the grammar," chuckles Tony with great affection.

At 66, he's a handsome old lion, his once-bushy mane tamed into a ponytail. Talking with oxygen tubes in his nostrils, his breathing is as measured as his phrases, wheezing faintly. He tilts his head toward the speaker, musician-deaf, but the memories are sharp, clear, and being coaxed out for his autobiography.

Guerrero developed his musicianship first on the cornet at 8, and by the age of 12 he was playing with the San Angelo Symphony. During his teens he won gold medals in university competitions, began playing in local bands, and studied trumpet with Pablo Martínez in Houston. He was offered a scholarship to Berkeley and received an education in San Francisco by day while playing salsa at night.

"They called him the Tejano Freddie Hubbard," notes local trumpeter Jeff Lofton, repeating the oft-cited comparison. "I got a chance to sit in with him. He had the tightest group!"

Emphysema robbed Guerrero of his ability to perform with Tortilla Factory on a regular basis, so now he manages and produces the band, a role he's content with but admits to still singing a little and sometimes picking up his horn.

"We almost lost him a while back," admits Alfredo Guerrero, leaning over and offering to help his father settle into the chair. Tony Guerrero rebuffs him.

"My dad gets that name 'Ham' for a reason," says Laura Guerrero, grinning as she relaxes on a nearby sofa. "You sit here an hour, and he's got you laughing, just being himself."

Her father smiles. He still hears a great deal. He's seen even more.

Arriba

The year 1967 marked Tony Guerrero joining Little Joe & the Latinaires as a young-buck trumpeter. Many young players had broken away from the old-school Latino bands that wore matching suits and greased back their hair, harmonizing to songs their parents loved. Latin music had long held sway with rock & roll, even before Ritchie Valens or the Champs' "Tequila," but the 1960s colored it anew.

The marching, charging call of Latino garage rock in the mid-1960s issued most famously from California with Cannibal & the Headhunters' "Land of 1000 Dances," in Saginaw, Mich., with ? & the Mysterians' "96 Tears," out of Dallas with Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs' "Woolly Bully," and via San Antonio with the Sir Douglas Quintet's "She's About a Mover." Much of this music was driven by the Vox or Farfisa organ, hip replacements for the unhip accordion. The Latino-based organ sound echoed across rock & roll and entrenched itself in psychedelia.

This Texcentric beat was echoed by countless Latino touring bands of the day, Little Joe & the Latinaires among them. The Latinaires, wrote Sunny Ozuna of the Sunliners in liner

notes for vinyl recording *Arriba*, were "a combination of Latin soul and English variations." A few years later, he might have called it Tejano. The band's charismatic stage presence in the form of Temple-based singers and brothers Joe and Johnny Hernandez made them formidable and hugely popular.

From their home base in Temple to the nonstop circuit of fairs, weddings, dances, and events, Little Joe & the Latinaires toured the U.S. constantly. Guerrero's collection of vinyl records speaks volumes that go to 11, archived in worn cardboard carrying cases. Here's the Latinaires, dressed in matching suits and slick coifs, arranged for a studio pose with stiff expressions, clowning for the camera, surrounded by women. Here's Tortilla Factory, sometimes 10 pieces, sometimes just a photo of Guerrero. Here's La Familia Inc., precursor to Tortilla Factory: Guerrero with Johnny Hernandez and producer Luis Gasca. They're young, handsome, virile, flaunting hair long in curls and 'fros, hirsute displays of mustaches and beards, dripping with testosterone in their proud stance atop la Onda Chicana.

For the Latinaires, touring meant making money, a small fortune largely frittered away on high living and fast times. The Latinaires played night after night, accruing untold amounts of cash, according to Guerrero.

"Little Joe would send me sometimes to pick up the gate," he waves. "Once at San Jose Fairgrounds on a Thursday night, I was too stoned, but the manager wasn't there so I went to get the money – \$17,000, in cash. In 1971. That was every night. Some nights it was \$25,000 or \$30,000. I wish I hadn't been such a fool financially"

In 1973, Little Joe “fired us, the whole damn band. Too many snobs – he thought we weren’t listening to him.” The pink slip from the Latinaires stung, but it turned out to be Guerrero’s ticket to the Tortilla Factory.

The ‘M’ Word

Tortilla Factory suffered growing pains early. In 1974, half the original members quickly left while the other half relocated to the Bay Area with Guerrero. The bandleader rounded up a new lineup for his vision of Tejano, a muscular cross section of rancheros, boleros, and the occasional polka, with thick threads of rock and jazz. They thrived, and the good fortune of Latinaires days came back around to Tortilla.

“Starting in ’74, we were grossing a million a year,” nods Guerrero. Memories flood.

“We went from Tejano to Latin rock,” Guerrero explains. “We moved from Texas to Oakland, playing at the Orphanage in [San Francisco’s] North Beach, hanging out with Tower of Power.”

The Orphanage provided a surreal setting for a moment of panic in California. As Guerrero lit up a joint outside that night’s venue, a stream of cops raced toward him. He stuffed the lit cigarette in his mouth and swallowed it just as the police ran past him. That’s when he realized he’d stumbled into a location shot for *The Streets of San Francisco*.

Tortilla Factory was in high-powered Latin rock company in the Bay Area. Besides Santana, Malo, War, and Tierra spicing up the West Coast, Texas had Doug Sahm’s Tex-Mex outings. Under Guerrero’s direction, Tortilla Factory with its wicked horn section and Texas roots was minor royalty of the peaking genre. Tortilla also had singer Bobby Butler, nicknamed “El Charro Negro,” the black cowboy.

“As the Latinaires,” recalls Guerrero, “we had trouble in the 1960s, checking into hotels down in McAllen. [In Tortilla Factory], we’d have to hide Bobby. We don’t talk about it, but those things happened. Driving through Georgia once, we stopped in a restaurant where the sign said, ‘No blacks.’ There were 12 of us, and I grabbed Bobby by the arm and walked in anyway. ‘Let go of me, fool!’ he said. Waitress came up and says, ‘Where you from?’

“We’re from West Texas!” She freaked out. She saw white boys, blacks, a bunch of

Bobby Butler adopted the charro hat and mariachi style of dress.



Meskins, hippies, long hairs. ‘What are you doing?’ she said, and we said, ‘Eating!’”

Guerrero tosses off the “M” word – “Meskin” – casually.

“So in the confusion, we got service. After we left, Bobby said, ‘You’re one damn crazy Meskin!’”

El Charro Negro

Bobby Butler doesn’t remember things that way at all. From his home in San Angelo, the retired 73-year-old singer says that despite being the only black in a band of Latinos, “I never ran into any problems.

“I was the drummer for a group out of Temple before that, and they were all Latinos too,” he reveals. “But I never had any racial problems or nothing like that.

“I was brought up on old-school Tejano, from the cotton fields and the barrios, in Arkansas, long before I came to Texas. I must

have been 8 or 9 years old – me and Mom and my brothers out in the cotton fields picking cotton. At that time, they brought up workers from Mexico to help with the cotton harvest.

“They’d sing out in that sun all day, and I fell in love with the sound.”

The presence of El Charro Negro distinguished Tortilla Factory in a way nothing else could. Butler adopted the charro hat and mariachi style of dress for the stage. His soulful croon is as authentic as the beautifully accented Spanish he taught

himself. Still, the number of black Spanish-language singers fronting Tejano bands is so minuscule as to warrant unused fingers on a single hand.

“Tejano – *Tejano*,” emphasizes Butler, “that’s the music I like, and that’s what I sing. That modern Tejano – that’s not me. I don’t really care for it. I don’t knock it, but I just don’t like it. I like the rancheros and the mariachis. That’s my type of music.

CONTINUED ON P.45

Cheapo



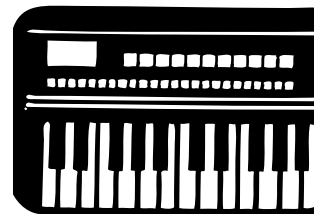
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TONI PRICE

Cherry Sunday Orchestra (CSO)

Cherry Sunday Orchestra? "Cherry Sunday String Band" is more like it. Following up 2007's *Talk Memphis*, Toni Price moves away from the previous disc's titular Southern soul and R&B and skews past the all-roots Texana of *Born To Be Blue* ('03) by enhancing her traditionally acoustic musical backing with Stanley Smith's clarinet tootle and Riley Osborne's turn-of-the-century piano. In Price's summery voice dwells a songwriter's dream, hitting its peak with deep cuts from the Guess Who's Burton Cummings ("Star Baby") and her personal and perennial favorite Gwil Owen ("Do You Take Me for a Fool?"), plus a tip of the porkpie hat to the late, lamented Walter Hyatt ("Goin' to New Orleans"), and one of this town's fastest-rising stars, Warren Hood ("When You Are Near"). Price always harvests the finest female songwriters, and this time Kathy Murray counts herself in league with blues mamas Trixie Smith ("Jack I'm Mellow") and Ida Cox ("Blues for Rampart Street"). Murray's known more as a singer than songwriter, but "Bird in the Hand" is short and sweet and simply perfect. Price left Texas for San Diego around the release of *Talk Memphis* and returned with a renewed appreciation for what Austin has to offer. *Cherry Sunday Orchestra* is Toni Price's welcome home gift back to the town that loves her best.

★★★★ – Margaret Moser

ERIC JOHNSON

Up Close (EMI/Vortexan Music)

"It was somewhat of the beginning of an awakening for me on this project," writes Eric Johnson in the liner notes to *Up Close*, explaining, with some hesitation, why a mere five years has passed since his last venture, 2005's *Bloom*. "Start to let go a bit and see what happens." Coming from Austin's most prominent studio perfectionist, the concept of letting go is purely relative. *Up Close* showcases exactly what's come to be expected from the local guitar magician: future-age fusion in soft tones – rich in mood and melody – executed with surgical precision, most notably on instrumentals "Gem," "Awaken," and "Fatdaddy." Johnson's vocals still sound thin and timid ("Your Book," "A Change Has Come to Me"), but the collaborative process brings out the best in him. Jimmie Vaughan sparks Lone Star shoot-out "Texas," voiced by Steve Miller – the result of a late-night guitar pull after the Joker's last Backyard visit – and Jonny Lang nails the other local calling card, the autobiographical "Austin." *Up Close*, an encouraging start to letting go.

★★★★

– Austin Powell

MEGAFAUNA

Larger Than Human

MegaFauna's debut sits at the intersection of 1970s rock and 1990s noise, idling in the land of ice and snow and burnt rubber. *Larger Than Human* seats a wild ride of whiplash tempo changes and dizzying rhythms by the local trio, from the menacing thump of opener "Hug From a Robot" through shred-a-delic closer "Sign Says." In between, the more ethereal "Silver Lining" and "Speck" offer a change of scenery, but singer/guitarist Dani Neff never lets up on the throttle. For all the rhythmic cliffs and axe-grinding, her vocals don't match – they're more like smoke in the air – so she lets her solos melt faces instead, plus drummer Cameron Page and bassist Will Krause are the perfect net for Neff's guitar acrobatics. *Larger Than Human*'s got lots of culs-de-sac and one-way streets, but it's best at high speeds.

★★★★

– Audra Schroeder



THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR

Those rolling echoes across Austin throughout 2010 came from the townies, all those musicians who grew up in the glow of the live music capital of the world. Spotlight on *The Bright Light Social Hour*, an eponymous debut from a local quartet that did its homework as a college art-rock collective and deliver "A" results in nine tracks. BLSH flash their blingy, dance-flavored melodies ("Men of the Earth," "La Piedra de la Iguana," "Shanty"), shimmering retro soul ("Detroit"), and sing-along anthems ("Bare Hands Bare Feet") polished into one distinctive groove accurately described as a cross between Franz Ferdinand and a funk revue, but their outstanding sound is indicative of something deeper. That Austin is experiencing a rebirth of music by a new generation nurtured within isn't questioned – Sahara Smith, Mother Falcon, and Speak already answered that. The Bright Light Social Hour is a prophet of the future, calling the newly baptized to the altar of rock, and the old faithful back into the fold.

★★★★

– Margaret Moser



MARMALAKES

Wonder Winds

For all its youthful restlessness and exuberance, Marmalakes' debut EP carries a developed eye for detail and ear for nuance. A welcome injection of vigor to the folk-pop fold, the local trio keeps the pace light and lively behind ganged harmonies, with winding lyricism flickering through scenes like Polaroid flashes. Opener "(A Scene Through) Cellophane" touches on the territory of Page France, while "Vittoria" bursts with an anthemic abandon. The EP marvels in fits of alliteration, from the rushing clatter of "Conversation" to the calming, Low Anthem lull of "Cast On." "Ode to Johnnie Martin" carries just enough weariness to suggest Marmalakes can be as serious as they are clever without sacrificing an underlying charm, and closer "Hands Alone in the House" weaves its mystical narrative atop an intensely loping rhythm that crumbles into cathartic howls. Marmalakes may yet be young, but *Wonder Winds* is a smart and infectious first offering.

★★★★

– Doug Freeman



OH NO OH MY

People Problems (Koenig)

Four years between LPs can be a lifetime in today's indie cycle. Since launching behind the twee-twined pop of their eponymous 2006 debut, Oh No Oh My has teased out a couple EPs, but their proper follow-up exposes some of the dangers of letting an album gestate too long. Though tighter from extensive touring, much of the force that the local quartet developed live is lost in the recording. "Walking Into Me" and "You Were Right" pose promise at the album's outset with mellow pop rhythms that still surge, and the arrangements are intricately employed throughout, especially the subtle strings of "So I Took You" and "Brains." But the vocals long to break out of their high-flitting preciousness, and despite the polish of the production, the album as a whole seems unable to wrangle its various impulses, revealing ONOM trying to move beyond the dated charm of their debut but not quite sure where to go.

★★★

– Doug Freeman



country mile

BY JIM CALIGIURI

THE DERAILERS

Live! From Texas (Varèse Sarabande)

The Derailers hit a rough spot after co-founder/co-frontman Tony Villanueva left. The results: multiple lineup changes and a noticeable lack of direction. This live disc, recorded at both Dan's Silverleaf in Denton and Gruene Hall, proves the veteran locals still move a dance floor by marrying Buck Owens and the Beatles with dexterity. Everly Brothers and Wynn Stewart covers previously unrecorded by the Derailers sweeten the deal.

★★★★



CORY MORROW

Brand New Me (Apex Nashville)

The title of the Red Dirt titan's latest refers to the fact that after his 2005 drug bust, he's now sober and happily married. Producer Lloyd Maines gives the disc an inviting sheen, and while some will find Morrow's new message uplifting, he's still dealing in country rock cliché, only without the references to whiskey. A rote cover of Jackson Browne's "Doctor My Eyes" offers little comfort.

★★★

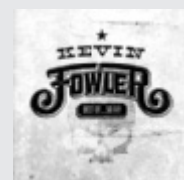


KEVIN FOWLER

Best of ... So Far

More a singles act than an album maker, Fowler collects 16 fan favorites and two previously unavailable tunes for the only LP of his you'll ever need. Redneck anthem "Beer, Bait and Ammo," sly double entendre "Don't Touch My Willie," the new, hard-charging "Beer Season," and truck commercial in waiting, "100% Texan," anchor. Some of his wordplay gets too cute, but the Amarillo native can put across every flavor of Texas-styled country with rock-edged gusto.

★★★★



reissues

BILL HICKS

The Essential Collection (Ryko)

Within the cult of Hicks, it's hard to say what's "essential" from the Texas comic. Consider this collection an after-dinner mint to this year's excellent documentary *American: The Bill Hicks Story*. Two CDs feature material from well-known albums that aren't hard to find, but the selections are top-notch. Hearing Hicks take down Jay Leno ("Artistic Roll Call") is still a thrill today. Two DVDs hold more allure, featuring the Austin Bootleg Series, four shows between 1991-1993, the last of which, from October '93, took place just months before his death. There are clips from Houston in the early 1980s, when Hicks was starting out as a teen – before he sharpened his satire into a steel trap – plus the goofy short "Ninja Bachelor Party," a longtime Austin cable access gem. Of special note is a download card with *Lo-Fi Troubadour*, Hicks' acoustic album, a mellow flip side to his acerbic onstage wit. He gets lumped into the "outlaw" comic pile – the origins of which are explained on one DVD – but prophet was more appropriate. He would've had whips for every animal in this post-9/11 circus.

★★★★

– Audra Schroeder



"People expect me to sing R&B and rap, but I don't care about that. They expect me to sing that and then I start singing in Spanish. Nobody dances – they all gather round the bandstand [to listen]. Makes me feel good. The first couple numbers I do, I've got butterflies in my stomach. After that second number is like: 'Hey wow, there are some people here. These are Mexicans out here, and they're all looking at me!'"

That's what Tony Guerrero banks on as he ticks off plans for the next recording and "creating new Tortilla heads." The bandleader foresees "a minimum of four songs for Laura, four for Alfredo, and four for Bobby. Bobby refuses to do the modern Tejano. I don't blame him. He's famous for what he does. Bobby remains the one and only Charro Negro."

El Charro Negro laughs at the plans. "They better hurry. I'm not getting any younger."

Rock-a-Bye Coltrane

Back at Casa Guerrero, seated kitty-corner to his father is Alfredo Guerrero – young, good-looking, talented, and committed to not only catching the torch hefted to him by his father but carrying it forward proudly.

"My father used to put me to sleep in the crib with Coltrane," he nods. "Growing up, Tejano didn't attract me musically. I'm so used to melody, pretty chords. I didn't see myself in a Tejano direction, so I went with R&B and salsa. My father hooked me up with Art Guillermo, and I was like: 'Oh my goodness, this is it. Let's do this!'"

"My father called it 'Urban Tejano.' It's like nothing out there."

Like many a modern young Texan, the younger Guerrero has a cowboy boot in hip-hop culture. He's currently collaborating with Kanye West's partner Haskel Jackson for starters. That's not his father's realm, but as a veteran musician, Tony Guerrero understands mass appeal and the importance of common languages, especially to a younger audience.

"Today, the Tejano industry is minuscule, tiny," stresses Tony Guerrero, looking across to his son, who in turn nods. "In the Sixties and Seventies, this market was huge. On Friday night we'd play to a packed house in Galveston. Saturday, Houston. Sunday, El Campo, to 2,000 people! Monday night in McAllen, Tuesday in Brownsville – five nights in a row to packed houses."

"Now, getting 1,200 on a Saturday night is a hat trick."

Tony Guerrero turns and looks to his daughter, the dark horse in the band's comeback. He has plans for her. Laura, regal and spirited in the boisterous world of Tortilla Factory, is a singer and prefers it that way.

"I don't know if I could ever get into the production part of it," she shrugs. "As far as writing songs, I haven't given myself that opportunity. What I like about Tortilla Factory is our roots are Tejano. We're never going to turn away from it."

Her background in sales and real estate came in especially handy when her father was at a loss for new musicians in the revived band. Laura's answer was Craigslist. While her father and brother still marvel at the results – a new Tortilla Factory – Laura's unfazed.

"Everything happens for a reason," she nods.



Stocking Stuffer

Stockings are hung by the chimney with care in the family room of the Guerrero house. Actually, they're crowded across the mantle, reds and greens overlapping one another, bunched in a friendly, homey hodgepodge. They're a big family, the Guerreros; no matter how many, there's always room for one more. So many celebrations take place in this room that a colorful "Happy Birthday" sign is permanently fixed.

Framed above Tony Guerrero's head is the 2009 Grammy nomination for *All That Jazz*.

"We were excited and flew there for it," he says. "It was hard to not win, but after a while, we knew the honor."

Alfredo Guerrero believes Tortilla's Urban Tejano is key to this year's Grammy nod.

"Stylistically, urban means hip and different, so the four songs of mine [on *Cookin*] have vintage Tejano horns from a chart. But it also has my R&B and my salsa singing mixed together with the Tejano. It's something completely different. The song we released as a single is blowing up like a bombshell in the Countdown USA 25 Top Tejano songs. It's number four."

"My father let me go and do big things on my own, and I didn't see myself coming back to these roots," he continues. "This last summer, when I got back the arrangements, I listened to them and I was like, 'I'm a Tejano now!'"

Those words might be the greatest gift Alfredo Antonio Guerrero ever gives his father. ■

Shiner

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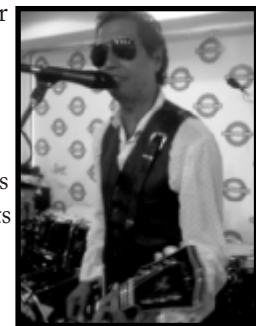
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Amy Cook • Kat Edmonson • Harlem
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Alpha Rev • Ruby James • The Rocket Boys • Shawn David McMillen
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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

MICHELLE ANTHONY

Tornadoes (Merctwyn)

Is there a singer-songwriter in Austin more under-the-radar than Michelle Anthony? The Milwaukee transplant's third disc, *Tornadoes*, is her first in four years due to motherhood – times two – and the development of HELLP syndrome, a life-threatening illness she fought after her first child's birth. Time and trauma have served Anthony's music well as she's developed a mature pop sound that carries echoes of Aimee Mann and Sara Hickman, all lofty hooks and keen observations. With musical backing including Band of Heathens drummer John Chipman and Robbie Fulks' guitarist Grant Tye, Anthony weaves a bright, winning spell on tunes like the speedy set opener "Spare Me" and potent kiss-off "Don't Deny." Her recent harrowing experience is faced down with radiant anthem "Beautiful" and the airy title track. Anthony's tendency to be cloying in spots might turn off some ears, but *Tornadoes'* strengths bring her out of the shadows.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

ZEIN AL-JUNDI

Sharrafouni (WMDP)

SRI KIRTAN

Live Your Love

(Mantralogy)

The gorgeous Arabic folk-pop of local singer/entrepreneur Zein Al-Jundi's latest disc *Sharrafouni* comes at an auspicious time. Al-Jundi grew up in Syria, a singing sensation from age 5 until she retired at 17 to pursue her education. Coming to the U.S. in 1982, she earned her degree at UT and returned to singing. Recorded in Syria, Beirut, and Egypt, *Sharrafouni* layers a modern pulse and world music elements over traditional Middle Eastern material with seamless flair ("Habib el Alb"). You need not speak her language to understand the cheeky tone of the



Latin-flavored "Ya Habibi." Sri Kirtan's Ishwari, meanwhile, arrived at UT in the late 1970s as Lynn Keller, singer for überpunk band the Reversible Cords, and stayed through the indie-rock 1990s. Her embrace of *kirtan*, the devotional chants of India, comes similarly parsed between traditional and contemporary with superb results on *Live Your Love*. Unmistakable rock influences in Ishwari imbue this sacred music with Western edge – "Govinda" features a rap segment, and the title track might be cribbed for a cruise line commercial – but its peerless vision of world music through the message of love is deeply compelling.

(Sharrafouni) ★★★

(Live Your Love) ★★★

– Margaret Moser

JOHN MILLS TIMES TEN

Caffeine Dreams (Fable)

THE JON BLONDELL QUINTET

Alive! at the Elephant Room (Fable)

Two longtime journeymen of the Austin jazz scene step forward on this pair of releases from local Fable Records. It's significant that reedman/composer/arranger John Mills, currently with UT's jazz studies department and a veteran of countless local bands, should specifically mention Joe Zawinul, Frank Zappa, and Michael Brecker as early influences. Rather than model his 10-piece big band after the innovative but decidedly old-school palettes of Duke Ellington and Gil Evans, Mills forges a far hipper aesthetic by channeling the latter-day modern visionaries in a dynamic group sound that crackles with energy. Think of a large band digging into the music of Weather Report and the Brecker Brothers and you get the picture. Mills has gathered a multigenerational ensemble composed of fellow Austin veterans alongside newly minted UT grads. Likewise, the repertoire of all Mills' originals is a mixture of older tunes, like "Flywheel" for the Creative Opportunity Orchestra, and brand new material. One of *Caffeine Dreams'* guests is venerated



local trombonist Jon Blondell, who shines vibrantly throughout his own session, recorded live at his home base, the Elephant Room. The quintet date features UT vets Jeff Hellmer on piano and John Fremgen on bass, with young-bloods David Bowen on drums and guitarist Carter Arrington providing the pyrotechnics. The fare is mostly well-worn standards, but the playing is uniformly inspired and their refreshing take on the Doors' "Riders on the Storm" stands out.

(Caffeine Dreams) ★★★★★

(Alive! at the Elephant Room) ★★★

– Jay Trachtenberg

REVEREND K.M. WILLIAMS

When I Rise (Dialtone)

Gospel and the blues have long had a contextually fractious but musically compatible relationship. That truism is personified by the Rev. Kelvin Mark Williams, whose message rises up from the pulpit of his Dallas/Fort Worth Holiness Church ministry yet comes delivered in the raw, primal, intense blues historically found in the Mississippi Delta and rural Texas. Playing a homemade single-string cigar-box guitar, often with a slide, he channels the musical spirit and styles of John Lee Hooker, Elmore James, Bo Diddley, and Texan Lightnin' Hopkins. *When I Rise* is a low-down blues album and a damn good one at that. The fact that most of the songs, including "The Lord Will Work It Out Somehow," "Something Took Control of Me," and the riveting title track, reflect the raucous sounds associated with a Saturday-night juke joint all but belie sentiments associated with a solemn Sunday morning. Kudos to Eddie Stout of Austin's Dialtone Records, a man who knows the real deal when he hears it.

★★★★

– Jay Trachtenberg



THE ROLLER

Wasted Heritage (Cyclopean)

Eons of doom and sludge fossilizing in the Roller's eponymous 2007 debut harden like Mother Earth on *Wasted Heritage*. Four-song full-length in a vinyl gatefold, the local metal quartet's second LP crisscrosses its wall shakers. At two songs per side, the opener of both slows to a crawl, building Sabbath-like on 10-minute A-side beacon "Candle Black," larynx caw Mike Morowitz calling the slo-mo mosh mantra: "Grow. Rot. Build. Destroy." Likewise, side two crossover "Passage" ("In death I am alive") works a chanting cadence into its half-life peyote drip. Both tracks are then met by hardened magma. A slight uptick in tempo on the scalping "Of Feather and Bone" somehow doubles the Roller's density, as if moving ever so slightly faster contextualizes the music's massive scale that much more. Fourteen-minute "White Wing" opens with a slight surge then quickly dirges. Colossal. Welcome to prehistory.

★★★★

– Raoul Hernandez



7 & 7 is

A robust 2010 for Austin vinyl 7-inches caps its year with *The New 45* (Sugar Hill), from Wimberley-gone-college wunderkind **Sarah Jarosz**. Still and lovely, acoustic-lined meditation "My Muse," which she performed live throughout the year, graces the A-side while Bill Withers cover "Grandma's Hands" clasps fiddle and mandolin in the palm of the singer's ace trio. More pointed comes **Literature's** modern nugget "Cincinnati" b/w "It's Cruel," produced by garage rock cottage industry Greg Ashley in his Oakland studio, the Creamery. The front side kicks a late-1970s Bay Area back-alley vibe, and the flip side surfs teen pop straight to the drive-in. The Red River trio's MySpace page ("breakcore") yells, "wish **Woven Bones** was here yeaaaaahhhhhwahhhwah-hyeahhh," so here twangs the corollary threepiece on its cherry-red vinyl "I've Gotta Get" b/w "Hey Kid" single (Hardly Art) – another all-too-easy big beat collectible, dank and clanging 1950s noir. **Followed by Static** veers New Wave synth whomp on the opening track ("OK") of a local split with **Bonnbionita** on Bombay Cove, the latter's karaoke ditty a "Full Throttle Cookie Monster." Austin fourpiece **Magnet School** halves with Dallas' **Dead Twins** on the white vinyl *Mysterious 7" Disc* for London's Shifting Sounds. The locals' ringing endorsement of 1980s UK guitar spray ("The Sitch") gets murdered by this inexplicable pairing with the DT's DOA rock ("Action/Reaction"). Hamming it to the rescue, San Marcos' long-running "weirdo funhouse gothic carnival popcorn" duo **Attic Ted** pop out a purple marble petroleum splat, "Patty Cake" b/w "I Dont Mind" and "UFC," as always on Pecan Crazy Records. All names, recipes, acronyms, and nuthouse monikers are musically applicable. Also in purple marble comes the **Sour Notes**, closing its ripe 2010 with "Hot Pink Flares" b/w "Psych Thrill," a chip off the pop personables' third disc *It's Not Gonna Be Pretty*. It's a leap forward once again, a guest shot by Mother Falcon soaring the two tracks into "Pink" soul and twitching "Thrill(s)." Poptart.

– Raoul Hernandez



pop

For his second LP, local songwriter Aaron Calhoun subsumes his identity into **Insects of the Underground**. The moniker and comic-book cover art suggest sci-fi punk, but *Mind Matter* takes its cues from the mellow art-rock travelogues of Al Stewart and Alan Parsons. Calhoun's songs fixate on themes of isolation and alienation, but his expressive voice, along with tasteful degrees of groove and ornamentation from the band, keep the album from becoming a dystopian plod. 20/20 principal and Austinite **Ron Flynt** helped develop the archetype for power pop in the late 1970s. *12 Strings and Tambourines* (Oglio) plays like a road map of Flynt's past and present musical sensibilities with nine covers and a couple of stray originals. Touchstones from Ricky Nelson to Big Star are revived with jukeboxlike precision. Flynt's renditions are more reverent than revelatory, but even a well-worn oldie like "Hello Mary Lou" gains new spark alongside chestnuts like Nick Lowe's "I Knew the Bride (When She Used To Rock 'n' Roll)." In contrast to Flynt's highly personal retrospective, **Dexter Freebish's** first all-new CD since 2004's *Tripped Into Divine* emanates futuristic universality. For *Shine On*, the quartet's quest for perfect pop hooks is swathed in electronic slickery coupled with one-size-fits-all lyrical themes. It's easy to imagine a swatch of "Save the Last Dance" or "Do You Want To" catching your ear in a TV commercial, but difficult to discern the humanity behind the mechanics.

– Greg Beets



NEW OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Researcher Patricia Brennan of Yale University told a conference in July that a duck's penis may vary in length from year to year - depending on their competition that year. Their penises waste away after each mating season and regrow, and Brennan found that they regrow longer if there are other males around. (Female ducks are known to have corkscrew-shaped vaginas, and thus a centimeter or two can make a big difference for success in mating.)

LEAD STORY

Among the oppressive patriarchal customs that remain in force in Saudi Arabia is a requirement that females obtain their father's (or guardian's) permission before marrying - even women who are profoundly independent, such as the 42-year-old surgeon (licensed to practice in the UK and Canada as well as Saudi Arabia) who was the subject of an Associated Press report in November. One activist, estimating that nearly 800,000 Saudi women are in the same position, complained that a Saudi woman "can't even buy a phone without the guardian's permission." The surgeon took her father to court recently, but the judge had not rendered a decision by press time.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Alabama is the only remaining state to ban the sale of sex toys, but nevertheless the Huntsville shop Pleasures recently expanded by moving to a former bank building in order to use three drive-through windows to sell dildos. (Since state law prohibits the sale unless used for "bona fide medical, scientific, educational, legislative, judicial, or law enforcement purposes," customers must provide a brief written description of their medical or other "legitimate" condition in order to make the purchase.)

Wei Xinpeng, 55, a boatman in a village

near industrial Lanzhou, China, collects bodies from the Yellow River (the murdered, the suicides, the accidentally drowned), offering them back to grieving relatives for a price. Distraught visitors pay a small browsing fee to check his inventory and then, if they identify a loved one, up to the equivalent of \$500 to take the corpse home. Said Wei, "I bring dignity to the dead"; no overstatement for him since his own son drowned in the river and his body was never recovered.

Nov. 3 was National Sandwich Day, and several U.S. eateries capitalized by mixing up bar drinks in honor of such favorites as the cheeseburger, the BLT (bacon-infused rum), and the PB&J (peanut syrup, strawberry jam, banana, and rum). The mixologist at Toronto's Tipicular Fixin's makes his cheeseburger cocktail with beef stock reduction, Roma tomatoes, and iceberg lettuce water, garnished with a cheddar crisp and a kosher dill.

NEWS OF THE OVERPRIVILEGED

1) Cell phones and GPS devices have led national-park visitors to do "stupid" things, confident that they will be saved from themselves, a Grand Teton National Park spokesperson told *The New York Times* in August - such as the lost, cold hiker who called rangers to ask for hot chocolate or the visitors flummoxed by cold weather who wanted a personal escort back to their campsite. In

August, a party of hikers in Illinois called for (and received) three separate rescues in 24 hours. 2) The Milwaukee teachers' union filed an equal-rights lawsuit in August challenging health-insurance cutbacks by the budget-challenged Milwaukee Public Schools. The union was denouncing the elimination of Viagra as discrimination against men.

THE WEIRDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

In November, at a burglary scene near Seneca, S.C., deputies found Noah Smith, 31, naked and apparently drugged, perhaps on hallucinogenic mushrooms, and with a stringlike object protruding from his buttocks. Smith was X-rayed, revealing (according to the deputies' report, which made its way to the Internet) that the object in his rectum was a mouse. However, several days later, the Sheriff's Office clarified that the object was a computer mouse. Smith told emergency room personnel that he had no memory of the incident.

ARMED AND CLUMSY (ALL-NEW!)

People who accidentally shot themselves recently: Daniel McDaniels, 31, Sarasota, Fla., "trying to ward off a skunk" (October). Sanford Rothman, 63, Boulder, Colo., while sleepwalking (October). Reserve Police Officer Kenneth Shannon, 68, Gary, Ind., in the hand while loading his gun, and the bullet went on to hit his partner (October). Sheriff's Deputy Miguel Rojas, Crestview, Fla., in the leg while firearms training (July). Darrell Elam, 52, Peshastin, Wash., in the buttocks as he holstered his gun (August). A 48-year-old woman, Clover, S.C., in the jaw while trying to kill a rat (September). A 25-year-old man, Juneau, Alaska, in the head after jokingly telling friends that there is one way to find out whether a gun is loaded or not (October 2009).

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com
(or www.newsoftheweird.com).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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THURSDAY **23**

BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET

Last call for locally grown produce to put on the holiday table. 8-11am. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 280-1976. Free. www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org.

TRAVIS COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET Renovated and reopened, this market has all the local meat, veggies, dairy, and crafts you could want. Thursdays, 3-7pm. 6701 Burnet Rd., 821-9221. gems23rd@sbcglobal.net.

★ **IMAGINE CHRISTMAS** Music, dance performances, and acrobats get in the spirit of the season for this family-friendly extravaganza. Reserve your seats online and bring a nonperishable food item for the church's Feed the Community program. Wed., Dec. 22, 7:30pm; Thu., Dec. 23, 5:30 & 7:30pm; Fri., Dec. 24, 2, 4, & 6pm. Gateway Church, 7104 McNeil, 837-2162. Free.

www.gatewaychurch.com/imagine-christmas.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Christmas Formal Beerland

Gary Clark Jr., Crooks Continental Club

FRIDAY **24**

★ **BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR** Today is your last chance to get something Austin-y (art, jewelery, prints, clothing, etc., whatnot, and then some) for a loved one this year. More than 100 artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. 10am-12mid. The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. Free admission. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Nothing says procrastination like shopping for gifts on Christmas Eve. And nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and lord knows what else, surrounded by tunes from one of many musical acts performing this year. Through Dec. 24, 11am-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 447-1605. \$4, weekdays till 7pm; \$7, evenings. www.armadillobazaar.com.

✎ **CHURCH!** This is the first church we know of where you need confession right after the mass. Come sit as the Gltoris spins the sin at the glitter altar. Fridays. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. www.thegltoris.com.

ROCKIN' AROUND THE DRISKILL Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers make the Driskill even warmer with their swinging tunes. Eggnog included. 9-11pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 206/605-3026. Free. www.rubydeemusic.com.

★ **IMAGINE CHRISTMAS** (See Thursday, 12/23.)

SATURDAY **25**

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 31 TO THURSDAY, AUG 7

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

MONDAY **27**

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE

feature a new theme every day for ages 5-11. Topics range from Chemistry Craze to FBI Fungi to Outrageous Oceans. Pack a lunch and some water, and dress for adventure. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 27-Jan. 3, 8am-5pm. Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center Dr., 327-8181. \$45 per day. www.cityofaustin.org/ansc.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER FARMERS' MARKET

Organic and local meats, cheeses, and produce await you. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones, 414-2096. Free.

www.sfcfarmersmarketsunsetvalley.org.

✎ **HAWAIIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY** Bruce, you look hawt in that coconut bra. So rock that lei at this annual holiday tradition. Homemade food starts at noon; come have holiday dinner with your chosen, bar-hoppin' famby. Noon. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. Free.

★ **HARGRAVE ARCADE** Today is truly a blessed occasion: the anniversary of the birth of Val Kilmer (actually on the 31st). What better way to celebrate than with outdoor screenings of *Real Genius* and *Willow*, in addition to the regular philanthro-punk she-nanigans including a house full of retro video games and live music? Bring something vegan for the deep fryer and a donation for Food for People. 1185½ Hargrave. \$10. www.hargravearcade.org.

SUNDAY **26**

LEGENDARY: THE DRAG BRUNCH

You had us at "unlimited bacon." (Not to mention washing it all down with mimosas.) Come get diva'd up on a Sunday with sassy Saffire, Topaz, Tara St. Stone, and Miss Ima Hoot. Brunch, 11am-3pm; shows, noon & 2pm. M Two, 208 W. Fourth, 478-7222. \$20.

TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB

Come watch the choo-choos and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. You might even be allowed to sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the tip jar. Noon-5pm. 201 W. Second. Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.

✎ **PTERADACTAL CACTUS** A team of talented improvisers take kids and their families through stories, games, and songs based on audience suggestions.

Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. www.flyingtheatremachine.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon @ Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas @ Alamo Ritz, 6:45pm

✎ **MANIC MONDAYS** With a name like that, one might suspect this would be the same ol' Eighties deck. Umm, no way. XBRMNT (aka Nakia) spins crazy good juxtapositions from classic cunt'ry and R&B to goofy hits. Mondays, 9pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. www.facebook.com/ManicMondays.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Head @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

ALL WE WANT FOR XMESS IS YOU The members of the **Gay Place Krewe** took to the blog (austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog) to send out their own personal holiday wishes. So, here we present a few of our own. Here is our list of what we would like to have more of in our life or at least in our stocking, please. **Mr. Ess Claus:**

1) More Folks in the Gay Place Fold We are family – extended family. And we'd like to invite you to join us. We love bloggers, thinkers, stinkers, artists, bon vivants, freaks, and especially readers. We also have a soft spot for perpetual partygoers, as the Gay Place will be throwing (hopefully perpetual) parties in the new year. Keep your panties peeled. Or tell us why you'd like to join us via gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

2) Sexy Queer Activists What's your passion? Your plague? Your hangnail? Your area of expertise? All these things can help define your life's work, and the community would like to suckle a bit from your creative teat. Hold up. Rewind for a second: Activists are, just by their nature, sexy, so you've already got that going for you. "Sexy," in this case, does not modify "activist"; it defines it.

3) Whimsical Pragmatists Another thing we find terribly sexy: staying lighthearted and open to the ridiculous while keeping eyes on the prize and seeking reasonable solutions within societal strictures. Why, that's positively heart-melting. And that's why we have crushes on people like **Rachel Maddow** and **Mark Strama**, even though they are not our type.

4) A Dangerous Edge There's nothing juicier than the unpredictable, the imbalanced, the monkey wrench, the hairpin turn. As much as we are settling gently into a comfortable and somewhat healthy middle age, we'd be lying if we didn't own up to this teeny and often harrowing fetish for the art of the quick change, the shape-shifting, the mighty morphin'. Shock us with your new ideas, and get into the pants of our mind!

5) Singers and Dancers Because the world could always use a few more singers and dancers. That's all we want. Seriously. Can you make sure it gets in our sock? Thanks! *Happiest of happy holidays**, darlings. *Yes, we know that's what the terrorists say, but so do the terribly thoughtful and considerate. (The reason for the season is reason, after all.)

Send gay bits to
gayplace@austinchronicle.com.
Visit
austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.



L - R: NEW YEAR'S GUIDE (SEE P.51) | ZILKER HOLIDAY TREE 5K (SPORTS, P.53) | WOMEN & THEIR WORK (ARTS, P.52) | TRUE GRIT (FILM, P.56) | HAYES CARLL (MUSIC, P.66)

TUESDAY 28

INTRODUCTION TO YOGA Get a jump-start on that New Year's resolution to start taking yoga classes with this by-donation class. 9:30am. Sacred Streams Yoga, 2013-A W. Anderson, 600-4716. Donations appreciated. www.sacredstreamsyoga.com.

BLANTON FAMILY DAY It's no mean feat to get kids interested in something as stuffy as Monet. But if interactive touch stations, gallery games, and the chance to make miniature oil paintings doesn't do it, nothing will. 11am-4pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324. \$9 (free, kids 12 and younger). www.blantonmuseum.org.

KWANZAA CELEBRATION African Safari Programs' Elizabeth Kahura spreads the spirit of family values through storytelling, music, and art. 3pm. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

TUESDAYS TOGETHER This month's last Tuesday-of-every-month event happens atop one of Austin's classic views from the south side of the river. Come get high with HRC. Tuesday, 6-8pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 289-2198. info@hrcaustin.org. www.hrc.org/austin.

TUEZGAYZ Barbarella was getting too big for her britches – so she got bigger. More room means more glitter. Tuesdays, 10pm. Barbarella, 615 Red River, 476-7766. www.barbarellaustin.com, www.theglittois.tumblr.com.

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Creepshow @ Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm

Doña Perfecta @ MACC, 7pm

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

WEDNESDAY 29

MUTT CRACKER CIRCUS Five dogs, a scarlet macaw, puppets, three jugglers, two unicyclists, live music, and a post-holiday partridge in a pear tree. Circus Chickendog will entertain all ages while benefiting the Austin Humane Society. Wed., Dec. 29, 9:30am; Thu., Dec. 30, 6:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 771-8836. \$10 (\$8, advance). www.chickendog.net.

GAY SENSITIVE AA MEETING You don't have to be a UT student; you just have to want to quit drinking. Meet in the basement of the School of Social Work every Hump Day at lunchtime. Noon-12:45pm. UT School of Social Work, 1925 San Jacinto, 475-8352. hn85@mail.utexas.edu, i.grahovac@uhs.utexas.edu.

TRIANGLE FARMERS' MARKET Fresh, local produce without the early hours of those other farmers' markets. Wednesdays, 3-7pm. Austin Farmers' Market at the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 236-0074. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

OCH RETRO NIGHT: BACK TO THE BOATHOUSE Come for the memories at this veritable class reunion of an old beloved Austin gay bar with all your Eighties tricks, tunes from the times, and drinks for \$1. Not exactly Reaganomics, thank God. Wednesdays, 10pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE (See Monday.)

BLANTON FAMILY DAY (See Tuesday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

McCabe & Mrs. Miller @ Milwood Library, 6:30pm

The Holy Mountain @ Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm

Valley of the Dolls @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

THURSDAY 30

GAYLICIOUS! Watch this space for more info on this upcoming kinkfest. Singer/comedienne/actress Jade Esteban Estrada

(Comedy Central, Bravo TV) returns with a "glittery, all-new, high-energy, interactive showgasm." Thu.-Sat., Dec. 30-Jan. 1 and Jan. 6-8, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-LAVA. \$20-\$15 sliding scale; \$10, starving artists. www.getjaded.com.

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE (See Monday.)

MUTT CRACKER CIRCUS (See Wednesday.)

TRAVIS COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET (See Thursday, 12/23.)

ongoing

A NOVEL GIFT TO THE LIBRARY Need a gift idea for that charitable person who has everything? Donate a book to the public library in their name by sending in the downloadable form to the library. Find all the details online. 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library/novel.htm.

APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM If you're in the market for a new energy-saving appliance, now is the time to start thinking about buying. As of Dec. 20, Texans have been able to call or go online to sign up for rebates on a first-come, first-served basis. If things go according to plan, you'll be able to take that rebate to a local store and buy the appliance and get money back. Go online for more details and limitations; they are numerous. 877/780-3039. www.texaspowerfulsmart.org.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts Feb. 15 and meets on Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. For more information or an application, visit the APD website at www.cityofaustin.org/police. For Chronicle Associate News Editor Nora Ankrum's experience with the program, see "My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1, 2006. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.

COMMUNICATE QUEERLY Finally! A socially intricate yet easy-to-use Web presence designed to "help foster communication and planning within the queer community to avoid competing events." Thank you, Poochie. Go check it out, and load up all your events. Now! What are you waiting for? Free. www.communicatequeerly.com, www.facebook.com/communicateATX.

EMILIYANN THEATRE TRAIL OF LIGHTS As long as the weather is good, there will be 9 acres of illuminated decorations for your holiday gawking. Hot dogs, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, and live entertainment round out the festivities. Through Dec. 31, 6-9pm. The EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free. www.emiliyann.org.



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NEW YEAR'S EVE MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

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The Sounds of Christmas

Friday, December 24

Concert with
Sue & Joseph Martin
5:00 p.m.

Candles, Carols
& Communion
5:30 p.m.

901 Trinity Street in Downtown Austin.

For more information, visit us at:

www.fbcaustin.org or call 476-2625

A People's Cathedral in the Heart of Austin



THE FIRST
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THE GUIDING SPIRIT OF WHOLE EARTH PROVISION CO.



Linda Wright Jones 1943 - 2010

On December 17th, 2010, Whole Earth Provision Company lost its founding mother, Linda Wright Jones. It was a peaceful passing with the support and love of all her Whole Earth family. Her death is an enormous loss to all who have known her. Linda has been the guiding spirit throughout Whole Earth's 40 years, keeping us true to her belief in the dignity and due respect for all people.

She steered the company from its birthing to its 40th Birthday on Tuesday, December 14th, participating in our raucous celebration from her bed with great pleasure in the festivities.

Linda's compassion, kindness and generosity were coupled with a fierce intelligence, determination and loyalty to her family, friends, employees and the company she worked tirelessly to serve - core values which have guided Whole Earth through its long and successful life.

Her shoes can never be filled. She has mothered all of us at one time or other; encouraging, advising, defending and loving. She has been the soul of Whole Earth Provision Company for 40 odd years and we will miss her.

Linda, we miss you!

Whole Earth Provision Company has dedicated a mailbox for those who would like to post memories, pictures and condolences it is: remember@wholeearthprovision.com

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*

Country Place Hotel in Fayetteville has gone from being the funkier hotel in Texas to being among the best places in the state to spend a night in the slow lane.

In an early issue of a statewide magazine, the hotel was singled out for its rustic but friendly accommodations. Fifteen years later, after a complete remodel, the same place made the magazine's list of best small-town hotels. "They were really talking about two different hotels," says Clovis Heimsath, who, along with his wife and business partner, Maryann, has owned the beautiful brick building on the square in Fayetteville since 1972.

The inn is more of a bed-and-breakfast than a traditional hotel. Each of the eight rooms is tastefully decorated with antiques, and handmade quilts cover the beds. The rooms are spacious and comfortable with private bathrooms, and a gourmet breakfast is included in the price. Downstairs, in the rear of the building, the Moravian Room hosts weddings, concerts, and special dinners. Many of Clovis' paintings hang on the walls. Behind the hotel, in the old carriage house, Clovis has his art gallery and studio, where he works on weekends.

Parts of the building date to the late 1800s, when Hugo Zapp opened his mercantile business in the farming village. In 1900 he added a two-story red-brick building accented with yellow-brick trim and upstairs porches at either end of the hallway that runs the length of the building. Over the years, the building has housed a dry goods store, photography studio, hospital, school, cafe, boarding house, and speakeasy in the basement during Prohibition.

The couple purchased the building at the beginning of the bed-and-breakfast phenomenon. "We rented the rooms upstairs for \$15 a night," Maryann says. The rooms were sparsely furnished and had no air conditioning, and only two bathrooms served all of the customers. "It was very causal," she says.

Clovis was teaching at Rice University at the time and working as an award-winning architect in Houston rehabilitating old homes. The Heimsaths and their five children wanted to escape the city, so they purchased a farm outside of Fayetteville. In 1975 the Zapp building became home to the family's architecture firm.

Ten years later, the mom-and-pop architecture company moved to Austin (now son Ben manages the business). "By that time we were either going to be known as the architects who let the building fall down or the architects who saved it," Clovis says. They decided to be the latter by redefining the building while retaining its historical charm.

The second edition of the Country Place Hotel opened on Labor Day 2003. "A lot of people found us on the Internet," Maryann says, "but more have heard about us from their friends." You can find the Heimsaths at www.countryplacehotel.com or by calling 979/966-7771. Rooms rent for \$95 to \$150 a night.

1,015th in a series. Collect them all. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

EISBAHN OUTDOOR ICE SKATING Strap on a pair of ice skates and circle the covered rink even when Texas temperatures get a bit balmy. *Through Jan. 2. Kinderhalle Pavilion, 100 W. Main, Fredericksburg, 830/997-6597. \$10. www.skateinfred.com.*

LEGENDARY PICKER CIRCLE Bring your guitar to join in the circle with Ben Beckendorf and Cowboy Doug Davis, or just stop by to enjoy the music and a cold one. *Sun., Dec. 26, 1pm. Luckenbach, 888/311-8990. Free. www.luckenbachtexas.com.*

BOXING DAY CELEBRATION The day after Christmas was honored in Europe as a time to give staff and tradesmen a tip or "box" for the year's service. In many countries it has morphed into a shopping day for merchants. This Texas affair is a time to relax on the winery's porch and around the fireplace for a glass of wine, reading of stories, live music, and light hors d'oeuvres. *Sun., Dec. 26, noon-6pm. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2681. Free. www.beckervines.com.*

ZWEITE WEIHNACHTEN The Germans call the day after Christmas "second Christmas," and it's a fine time to enjoy music and refreshments. *Sun., Dec. 26, 2-4pm. Gillespie County Historical Society Building, 312 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg, 830/997-6523. Free. www.fredtxlodging.com.*

TRINITY RIVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT The 25,000-acre refuge is home to waterfowl, bald eagles, river otters, and hundreds of other species, and the park staff needs help from birds of all skill levels to help spot the resident and migratory birds. *Tue., Dec. 28, 7am-5pm. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Cleveland, 936/336-9786. stuart_marcus@fws.gov, www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/trinityriver.*

CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO A Texas tradition since 1958, the indoor rodeo features professional cowboys and -girls, children's activities, and real barbecue throughout the year. *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 28-29, 1818 Rodeo Dr., Mesquite, 972/285-8777. www.mesquiterodeo.com.*



BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR (SEE FRIDAY)

FLAVORS FOR SAVORS So you're donating blood. What do you want, a pint of ice cream from Amy's Ice Creams? Done and done. Go online for a list of donation spots. *Blood Center of Central Texas, 4300 N. Lamar, 206-1266. www.inyourhands.org.*

FREE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES Pets whose owners live within certain Austin ZIP codes are eligible for a free rabies shot, collar and tag, a microchip, and spay/neuter services. Call to check your eligibility and to schedule an appointment. *Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez, 587-7729. Free.*

FRONT STEPS HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE Go online to find out what the people at Front Steps could use to help those in need this holiday season, and drop it off during business hours. *Through Dec. 31. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.*

GIVE A PET A SECOND CHANCE Want to help Austin Pets Alive! but can't take a cat or dog into your home? Sponsor a pet this season and help them find homes and stay healthy. A list of animals to be sponsored can be found at the APA offices. *Through Jan. 1. Austin Pets Alive!, 2807 Manchaca Rd., 961-6519. www.austinpetsalive.org.*

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW This local coffee shop has been stepping up its holiday light game for years. Every hour the lights and music explode with the spirit of the holidays. *Through Dec. 31, 6pm-12mid. Mozart's Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900. Free. www.austintexaschristmaslights.com.*

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS PET DRIVE The Town Lake Animal Center is lowering its adoption fee from \$75 to \$35 for the majority of its dogs and cats during the holidays. We don't recommend pets as gifts, but if you've got room in your home and heart, TLAC can help get a pet in your life. *Through Dec. 31, 11:30am-7pm (excluding holidays). Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez. www.getapetnow.com.*

HRC LOVE FEST It's coming up on HRC's annual gala, and this year, its proximity to V-Day (you know: hearts, flowers, lube ...) should encourage spontaneous outbursts of luv luv luv all over the place. Watch this space for info about this year's awardees, and get your tickets before they increase in price. *Sat., Feb. 12, 6:30-10:30pm. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. \$275; discounted to \$225 until Dec. 31. www.hrcaustin.org.*

MCCOY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY Forty thousand synchronized lights ensure that your holidays are filled with joy ... and possibly seizures. *Through Dec. 31, 5:30-10:30pm. 8304 Roan, 698-6944. Free. www.mccoyleftlights.com.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 7 issue is Monday, Dec. 27.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:



HARGRAVE ACADEMY (SEE SATURDAY)

MEXICAN PEOPLE IN INDEPENDENCE & REVOLUTION EXHIBIT This exhibit gathers books, prints, photos, manuscripts, and other ephemera to tell the story of Mexico's history from independence (1810) to revolution (1910). *Benson Latin American Collection, UT campus, Sid Richardson Hall, Unit 1, 2300 Red River, 495-4520. Free. www.lib.utexas.edu/benson.*

MEXICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS EXHIBIT features photos and bios of 32 local individuals who paved the way for future generations. *Through Jan. 16. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7498. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc/trailblazers.htm.*

PFLAG SATELLITE OF LOVE "Austin is big, and we now need two meeting sites to serve different parts of Austin," the local chapter of PFLAG says. So be it. Come to this first meet and greet, and then meet each second Thursday of the month! *Thu., Jan. 13, 6:45pm, then each second Thursday, 7pm. Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, 302-3524. Free. www.pflag-austin.org.*

RING IN THE L; RING IN THE G Naga Valli kicks off a new year and the January/February issue of Austin's flippity flippin' flip rag o' LG style. *Sat., Jan. 8, 6-9pm. BMW of Austin, 7011 McNeil, 343-3500. \$10.*

SANTA'S RANCH Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up at the North Pole. He's spending most of his time among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. Get in the car, and join in the festivities. *Through Jan. 2, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall), 830/743-1293. \$20 per car. www.santasranch.net.*

SNOW BUNNY II Bunny as in Lady Bunny. Yes, coming to our town! And II as in Tuaca. As in sponsored by *Sat., Jan. 1, 10:30pm & 12mid. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

SUPPORT FOR ANTHONY GRAVES He was exonerated after spending 18 years on death row. The Texas Moratorium Network is collecting funds to help him get on his feet while he navigates the long legal process to receive compensation from the state of Texas. *www.anthonysgraves.org.*

TAMARA'S BIRTHDAY NEW YEARS AKA NYEATCUC The middle name of this event is "Eat." Do not miss, and do not come too late. Free food, free booze, 8-10pm! Free bands! Free love! Free Tamara Hoover! Party like it's 2006! Whoot! *Fri., Dec. 31, 8pm. Cheer Up Charlie's, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133.*

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION FORUM The Texas Department of Transportation hosts this three-day exchange of ideas and brainstorming about the future of movement in Texas, because things are getting pretty crowded around here. Register online. *Jan. 3-5. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 936-4241. \$325-575. www.texastransportationforum.com.*

Kate X Messer (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

James Renovitch (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/commform.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.

new Year's GUIDE



FOOD

DINE & DANCE THROUGH THE DEC-ADES Start your evening doing the Charleston and end up dropping it like it's hot as Henri & the Action Pack lead you to the ghosts of dance floors past and present. Champagne and two cocktails are included in the price. Spend a little extra for a multi-course meal and bottle service. *10pm-2am. The HighBall, 1142 S. Lamar, 383-8309. \$120 (meal and party), \$25 (party only).* www.thehighball.com.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER Head to the Spaghetti Warehouse for one of two showings of *The Linguini Code* accompanied by dinner and drinks.

HOTELS

AUSTIN SOCIAL SCENE GALA Get your cocktail attire out, and prepare for some elegant partying with a cash bar and live music to keep the social interactions lubricated. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres begin at 7pm for people who purchased a hotel-room package so they can pick a prime seat at the gala. Things ramp up at 8pm as the doors are thrown open to all ticket holders and the amps are switched on. Cover bands Suede and LC Rocks supply the tunes inside the ballroom, and Vallejo headlines the lobby stage. *DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 331-7890. \$50, gala only; \$340, gala and room combo.* www.austinsocialscene.com.

DRISKILL GALA Strap on your slacks and silk tie for this annual gala featuring music from Groove Daddy and appetizers from chef Jonathan Gelman. Dance the night away while awaiting the Champagne toast. *The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. \$65.* www.driskillhotel.com.

FOUR SEASONS Enjoy a New Year's Eve meal at the Four Seasons' restaurant TRIO (\$95) or just hang in the Lobby Lounge (8pm-12mid, \$25), where house favorite Brett Cline works the keys while you party in anticipation of midnight. The next day, nurse that hangover away with a delicious brunch (10am-2pm, \$55). *Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500.* www.fourseasons.com/austin.

7pm. 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$129 per couple. www.capcitymystery.com.

NEW YEAR'S AT PHARA'S Getting overwhelmed by all the food, drinks, belly-dancing, and live music from Atash? Take a break in the hookah lounge and start your year chilled out. *6pm-2am. 111 E. North Loop, 632-7067. \$60.* www.pharas.com.

STUBB'S As if the tasty barbecue weren't enough, tickets include a show from T-Bird & the Breaks, a Champagne toast, and a buffet of all things slathered, smoked, and seasoned. *9pm. 801 Red River, 480-8341. \$32.* www.stubbsaustin.com.

PARTY AT STEPHEN F. AUSTIN No kegs or plastic cups, because this ain't no frat party. Step it up this year with DJ'd tunes, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and Champagne for the witching hour. *8pm. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8800. \$50.* www.austin.intercontinental.com.

HOLIDAY INN NEW YEAR'S Semiformal attire is required for this semi-swanky soiree. Why not hope for the best and get a room too for an additional \$109? *9pm-2am. Holiday Inn Town Lake, 20 N. I-35, 569-6981. \$50 (\$90, couple).*

BARTON CREEK RESORT GALA Music from the Jacque Vilmain Group accompanies your five-course meal. If you aren't too full, feel free to dance the rest of the year away. *7pm-1am. Barton Creek Resort & Spa, 8212 Barton Club, 329-7923. \$99.* www.bartoncreek.com.

THE CROSSINGS helps you get in a romantic mood with dinner for two, one night's accommodations, Champagne, live entertainment, games, and credit toward spa treatments. *13500 FM 2769, 877/944-3003. From \$299 per couple.* www.thecrossingsaustin.com.

LAKEWAY RESORT & SPA Three gourmet courses, dancing, and Champagne: everything you need to make sure you start the new year drunk, happy, and full. Sleep it off with rooms starting at \$99. *5-11pm. 101 Lakeway Dr., Lakeway, 512/261-6600. \$45.*

MUSIC

AMNESIA NYE DJ Silver ensures that the go-go dancers have something to gyrate to, while you try and relax in your black-tie attire with a hookah and the "nitrogen-enhanced atmosphere." "Amnesia" might be the appropriate description for the evening. *9pm-3am. Amnesia, 14106 N. I-35, 850/712-6711. \$15.* www.facebook.com/austinamnesia.

AUSTIN UPTOWN DANCE Kristy and Carson Watson spin the tunes on this night of dance, music, Champagne, tasty treats, and holiday cheer. *9pm-1am. 8868 Research #706. 459-5678. \$30.* www.austinuptowndance.com.

COUNTRY ROCKIN' NEW YEAR'S with Rick Trevino, Dale Watson, and the Derailers making sure the dance floor is packed. *7pm. North Austin Event Center, 10601 N. Lamar, 454-3038. \$60 (\$50, advance).* www.northaustineventcenter.com.

FADÓ offers two New Years for the price of one. Toast at 6pm for the Irish New Year and again at midnight with a Champagne reception. Enjoy your favorite Irish dishes along with drinks, party favors, and music from the Baggards. *5pm. 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. \$15.* www.fadoirishpub.com/austin.

THEATRE, ART, COMEDY

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB Maria Bamford – whom you may remember as the crazy shopper in the Target ads or on one of her appearances on Comedy Central – will be performing two shows for your new-year-ringing entertainment. Champagne will be served at the late show. *8 & 10:30pm. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. \$25 (early), \$40 (late).* www.capcitycomedy.com.

MARVELS OF CARNIVAL CELEBRATION The theme may as well be Beauty & the Beast with a combination of burlesque performances, sideshow freaks, live music, and other wonders of the human species. Other circusy performances include aerial acrobatics and fire twirlers. *8pm-2am. Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. \$30 (\$25, advance).* www.bluetheatre.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMEDY brings the funny with Rich Talarico performing two sets with the ColdTowne Theater troupe. Each set has a short improv workshop followed by a different play. After the curtain falls the '60s dance

OTHER

BAR & RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE NEW YEAR'S EVE Affectionately known as BARENYE, this event is for those who work on NYE. Everything you expect from such a soiree – countdown, balloon drop, prizes, a Champagne toast, etc. – will be there a few days early. *Wed., Dec. 29, 9pm-2am. Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 476-8017. No cover.* www.speakeasyaustin.com.

MEDITATE & MANIFEST Ring in the new year, literally, with the healing sounds of the Tibetan bowls. *4:30-6:30pm. Eastside Yoga, 1050 E. 11th, 779-8543. \$20 sug-*

gested donation. www.eastsideyoga-austin.com.

GIBSON SKI LODGE The music, dancing, and Champagne are all standard, but the 30 tons of snow that you'll be celebrating in will transport you to Colorado. Come dressed for the slopes, and get ready for a photo op in the hot tub. Don't ask us how that works. *9pm-2am. Gibson Bar, 1109 S. Lamar. \$115.* on.fb.me/ep3zdz.

ROARING 20S NEW YEAR'S This winery and resort brings back Prohibition Era partying with food, dancing, casino games,

GRUENE HALL Texas' oldest dance hall ends the year with Charlie Robison. *Gruene Hall, Gruene, 830/606-1601. \$50.* www.gruenehall.com.

LIVE FUNK MASH-UP Get on the good foot with music from the Sugarfoot Family All-Stars, classic-soul DJ sets from Greg Most, video projections, and cage dancers. *Soul Train* style is encouraged. *10pm. The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. \$20 (\$15, advance).* www.rubyrco.com.

NYE AT SEAHOLM There are so many electricity puns running through our head about a dance party in the old power plant that we can't choose one. N.A.S.A. and Ladytron bring the beats that keep you moving long past midnight. Get a great view of the fireworks or just linger by the bar for hors d'oeuvres and Champagne. *9pm-3am. Seaholm Power Plant, 214 West Ave., 477-4747. \$75 and up.* www.nyeaustin.com.

NYE DANCE WITH ALVIN CROW For those who are looking for a midnight whiskey toast instead of Champagne, this honky-tonk's got you covered. Dance lessons are offered before the show. After that, Alvin Crow supplies the scoot, and you bring the

party starts to spin. *8 & 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$20-30.* www.coldtownetheater.com.

IMPROV EXTRAVAGANZA The Hideout invites you to ring in the new year improv-style, with an evening of games and skits and a Champagne toast at midnight to top it all off. *8 & 10:30pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$25.* www.hideouttheatre.com.

ESTHER'S FOLLIES NEW YEAR'S Laugh in the new year with Austin's go-to troupe for all things timely, funny, and magical. Admission gets you a Tex-Mex meal, Champagne toast, festive hat, and, of course, a show. *8 & 10:30pm. Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. \$45-55.*

'WHEN HARRY MET SALLY' FEAST The Billy Crystal/Meg Ryan romantic classic is served up on the screen while you get four courses served up on the table. Orgasm not guaranteed. *7pm. Alamo Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. \$75.* www.originalalamo.com.

boots. *9pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189. \$20.* www.brokenspokeaustintx.com.

SPEAKEASY NEW YEAR'S EVE The Live Music Lounge, Terrace 59, and the Kabaret Room will all be open for your partying pleasure. Purchase an open bar ticket for \$120 and welcome 2011 face first. *7pm-2am. Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 476-8017. \$44.* www.speakeasyaustin.com.

TAMARA'S BIRTHDAY NEW YEAR'S The middle name of this event is "Eat." Do not miss, and do not come too late. Free food, free booze, 8-10pm! Free bands! Free love! Free Tamara Hoover! Party like it's 2006! Whoot! *8pm. Cheer Up Charlie's, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133.*



and the prohibited wine. *9pm-12:30am. Messina Hof Winery and Resort, 979/778-9463 x234. \$150.* www.messinahof.com.

WILLIAMSON MUSEUM MASQUERADE BALL Come in costume or at least masked to this benefit party for the Williamson Museum. Hors d'oeuvres, booze, and more help you make the transition to 2011. *9pm-1am. Historic Williamson County Courthouse, 701 Main St. Georgetown, 512/943-1670. \$100.* www.unmaskthenewyear.org/index.php.

arts listings

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, 471-1444,
www.broadwayacrossamerica.com

Through Dec. 26
 Running time: 2 hr.

Just as there are people who go to church once a year at Christmastime, there are those who go to theatre once a year at Christmastime, and

many of them choose *The Nutcracker* or the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Since Radio City began touring its *Spectacular* in 1994, ballet companies in some cities have complained that the Rockettes have stolen ticket sales, and sometimes venues, from their *Nutcracker* productions, which represent large chunks of their annual revenue. While you might think that *The Nutcracker* and the *Spectacular* are apples and oranges, the truth is that lots of folks have to choose one over the other (not to mention the many other smaller-scale shows and nondance productions). And with most American *Nutcrackers* being degenerated, taste-starved versions of the classic ballet, I – a ballet lover who, at this time of year, really wants nothing more than to eat cookies and be left alone to watch the marathon of world-class *Nutcrackers* on Ovation – wondered whether those seeking a holiday dance experience might do better to choose the entertainment of the *Spectacular* over the watered-down art of most *Nutcrackers*.

The touring *Spectacular* is, understandably, scaled down from the New York version, but the dance numbers themselves are adapted from the original show. The striking-in-its-simplicity “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers” dates back to the *Spectacular*’s premiere in 1933. The Rockettes’ precision and synchronicity mesmerize and, like the locking gears of the vintage toys, pull the viewer back to a simpler time. Later, the dancers become rag dolls in Santa’s workshop, and adorable costumes and a whimsical set are paired with perfectly styled dancing to lovely effect. In other scenes, the Rockettes perform in a more typical style – smiles flashing, legs stockinged, costuming often inconsequential – but the precision and choreography are still impressive. During the opening performance on Dec. 17, the Rockettes, along with the supplemental performers who padded the show, all maintained high energy, and the costumes and decor ranged from adequate to gorgeous. I’m not one to use words like “spectacular” easily, but I’d say that as holiday entertainment, the show as a whole does a pretty good job.



Less impressive is the *Nutcracker* parody by non-Rockette dancers in bear suits – not because *The Nutcracker* is untouchable but because trained dancers in bear suits, to me, at least, are not funny but pathetic. Also unimpressive is the casting of three performers with dwarfism as elves, baby bears, and small snowmen, and the audience’s laughter at the first appearance of an elf onstage. Yes, the costume was ridiculous, but so were those of the ballerina bears, which did not seem to provoke laughter from adults. Isn’t there a more tasteful way to get a laugh while letting these performers keep their jobs? After pondering this until deadline, I don’t know.

The final scene, another classic, is “The Living Nativity,” which is exactly what it sounds like. Here, the frenzied pace and secular subject matter take a sharp turn toward the pious. As the Nativity unfolds onstage (complete with live camels!), a solemn poem about Jesus Christ is both played over the sound system and projected over the stage.

The harsh break in the program’s flow notwithstanding, this is where my mind turned back to *Nutcracker*. While the *Spectacular* shares many elements with the ballet – fake snow, a magical land, giant Christmas trees – its brand of spirituality seemed a bit grab-you-by-the-collar for me. *The Nutcracker* is, of course, set during Christmas, but it never asks you to be a Christian (and outside of the United States, the performances of the ballet aren’t restricted to Christmastime). In its best versions, it invites nondenominational catharsis through the Tchaikovsky score, the utterly artificial art of ballet, and choreography that exudes the range of emotion the score reaches. Not everyone will share this view, I am sure, but for me, as well-executed as the *Spectacular* was, its entertainment wasn’t enough to keep me from pining for a bit more art. – Jonelle Seitz

theatre

OPENING

JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA’S GAYLICIOUS! The Vegas-style singer/comedian/actor/model returns to delight the jaded (yet sadly un-Jaded) crowds with his gender-bending show that’s part stand-up comedy, part Broadway musical, all glittery and, well, *gaylicious* indeed. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 30-Jan. 8, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.getjaded.com.*

CLOSING

SCROOGE, THE MUSICAL This vigorous stage adaptation of the 1970 holiday film is directed by Ron Watson out in Georgetown. The Dickens, you say! *Through Dec. 30. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$24 (\$22, seniors; \$14, students, military; \$10, children). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

See review, left. *Thu., Dec. 23, 2, 5 & 8pm; Fri., Dec. 24, 1pm; Sun., Dec. 26, 11am, 2, 5 & 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, UT campus, 471-1444. \$25.50. www.broadwayacrossamerica.com.*

ONGOING

SANTALAND DIARIES The classic David Sedaris holiday treat returns, this time with Zach’s original star, Martin Burke, as the beleaguered and snarky elf Crumpet. And of course the sonic and visual loveliness of Meredith McCall, accompanied by the expert ivory-tickling of Jason Conner, directed by Dave Steakley. Recommended. *Through Dec. 31. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$39-48. www.zachscott.com.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

The Week in Coldness: Corporate Synergy promises to make good on ColdTowne’s sketch-supremacy agenda. *Thu., 8pm. MothUp* The free storytelling show returns! *Thu., 10pm.* And then ColdTowne’s **closed for Christmas** ... until the **Monday Night Mash**, which happens each week, with free admission. *Mon., 8:30pm.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

Thursday: The **Threefer** brings you sets by **Baxter & Bernard’s Holiday Special. Abstract Rainbow**, and the **Amazon & the Milksop: Fitzgeralds for Hire. \$10.**

Friday & Saturday: Closed for Christmas.

Sunday: The Weekender Just a five-spot gets you some Boxing Day improv awesomeness with those **Available Cupholders** and a student showcase. *7pm.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night is hosted this week by **Eric Sprague. Thursdays, 10pm.**

Closed for Christmas this weekend, but they’ll be back soon!

ESTHER’S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfolies.com.

Esther’s Follies Closed for Christmas but reopening on: *Thu., Dec. 30, 8pm.* Reservations highly recommended. \$20-27.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 7 issue is Monday, Dec. 27.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail: Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy, visual arts. brenner@austinchronicle.com. Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com. Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Same Year’s Eve!

It’s the night before the night before the first day of the new year, and the entire friggin’ **Austin Improv Collective** packs itself, in impromptu troupes that overflow like spiced hard cider, onto the Hideout stage for a night of wild (as they say) abandon. It’s not just a show – it’s a party – and you’re invited! *Thu., Dec. 30, 8pm. \$10. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.*



BUT WAIT - THERE’S MORE!

KICK BUTT COMEDY OPEN MIC Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.

AUSTIN SKETCH FEST: OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The second annual Austin Sketch Fest, featuring acts from all over the country, will rock this town on Memorial Day weekend. Will you be among the troupes bringing the sold-out crowds to near humor-spurred orgasm? Submit your video to show you’ve got what it takes. See website for details. Submission fee: \$10 (\$15, after Jan. 15). Deadline: Feb. 1. Mailing address: ColdTowne Theater, 4803-B Airport, Austin, TX 78751. www.abxsketchfest.com.

TIKI TUESDAYS @ CHERRYWOOD Local funnyman **Seth Cockfield** hosts an open mic where *anybody* can do a short set, but some of the city’s top comedy talents break in their new material. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½.*

MOTHER PLUCKIN’ COMEDY OPEN MIC **Mike Navarrete** and **Chance Royce** host this free-for-all, and they’re offering prizes for funny people. *Mondays, following Monday Night Football. Pluckers, 9070 Research #201-C. 533-9464. Free. www.pluckers.com.*

THE NEW MOVEMENT Acclaimed comedy instructors **Chris Trew** and **Tami Nelson** execute their brand of hijinks with talented friends and disciples. You want *comedy*? See the website for details, yes, but look: **Improv Zero** is a free intro-to-improv class. *Wed., 7pm. The Shootaround Wed., 8pm. The Megaphone Show* puts a local celeb onstage to spin tales of true truth before being interviewed and instantly improvised upon. *Wed., 9:30pm. Free. Block Party Thu., 9:30pm.* And then they’re closed (for Christmas) until next week. *New Movement Theater, 1819 Rosewood. www.newmovementtheater.com.*

dance

BIG RANGE DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS The contemporary dance/movement-based performance art festival is seeking choreographers for this year’s festival. See website for application. Deadline for applications: Jan. 30. www.bigrangeaustin.org.

BUENOS AIRES CAFE: UNA NOCHE PORTEÑA Tango and folklore singer Daniel Montserrat performs weekly. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Buenos Aires Cafe, 1201 E. Sixth, 382-1189. Free. www.buenosairescafe.com.*

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER This 48th annual *Nutcracker* boasts a cast of more than 200, including 160 Ballet Austin Academy students ages 8 and older, and is choreographed by Stephen Mills to the luscious music of Tchaikovsky (performed by the Austin Symphony). *Thu., Dec. 23, 2pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. www.balletaustin.org.*

Wait, you enjoy dance performances well enough, but you’re really looking for dance classes? Belly dancing? Tap dancing? Swing? Tango? And so on? We print those in our third issue of each month, but they’re always available in the Dance Listings at austinchronicle.com/dance.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



Zilker Holiday Tree 5K

If, like me, you plan on pigging out this holiday season to help fend off the doom and gloom of a “down” economy, peak oil, global warming, and getting dumped for the umpteenth time, why not add the **Zilker Holiday Tree 5K** to your holiday calendar as a fun social event that doubles as a good way to shed a few of those pounds put on from stuffing too much stuffing into your maw. Mmm, stuffing. Runners traverse what used to be the **Trail of Lights** starting at the **Zilker Tree**, traveling through the south side of the park, and then back to the tree. Paid entrants will receive a long-sleeved T-shirt commemorating this year-welcoming event. Parking available by entering the park from MoPac. *Sun., Dec. 26, 4:30pm. Zilker Park, starting point at Zilker Tree, 472-3254. \$30; \$35, day of event; \$17, children 11 and younger.*

soccer watch

BY NICK BARBARO

Inter Milan cruised to a relatively easy FIFA **Club World Cup** title last week, beating African champs **Tout Puissant Mazembe Englebert** 3-0 in the final in Dubai.

The majority of the European leagues take off a couple of weeks, or more, near their midway point for the holidays. The UK pretty much plays through, though, including a traditional full slate of games on Boxing Day, Dec. 26. And the London derby is held the next day, featuring **Chelsea at Arsenal** on ESPN2, Monday, Dec. 27, 1:55pm. There will have to be some make-ups scheduled as well, as the English Premier League had **seven games snowed out** over the weekend in the massive storm that froze Europe as far down as Southern Italy. Elsewhere at the midway point:

Spain: A two-team race, as usual: Barcelona and Real Madrid are a combined 27-3-2.

France: The usual dogfight, with no fewer than 12 teams within two games of the lead.

Scotland: Looking like it'll come down to ... surprise: Rangers and Celtic.

Italy: AC Milan leads a tight pack; crosstown rival, five-time defending champ Inter, is way back.

Germany: Borussia Dortmund (who?) tore through the first half of the season at 14-1-2.

England: There's a new big four, and Liverpool's not in it. Manchester City (or could it be Tottenham?) is looking to show it's in the same class as Arsenal, Chelsea, and Man U.



FOOTBALL WATCH

I probably say this every year, but this has to be the toughest season yet to be a Texans fan. When you set expectations so high, you have so much farther to fall.

Since starting 4-2, Houston has lost eight of nine including last week's woeful 17-31 performance against the rival Tennessee Titans. The Texans were never in the game, and I did something I've never done before: I stopped watching at the half. It almost feels like a dirty secret to share this with the public, but blame the Texans, not my loyalty. I doubt there are many more-loyal Texans fans in this city, but I just can't torture myself any further. And it has been torturous. But I'll be back in the saddle this Sunday (3:05pm, CBS) as their league-worst defense (minus **Mario Williams!** and **DeMeco Ryans!**) faces **Tim Tebow** and his Denver Broncos. Tebow might be a good fantasy play this week going against the Houston D. Who wouldn't be?

The Cowboys travel to Arizona (Sat., Dec. 25, 6:30pm, NFL Network) to face the dreadful Cardinals in a game that Dallas is favored to win by seven. I expect them to more than cover the spread. I'm thrilled that **Marion Barber** is out of



Mario Williams

the way and we get a chance to see running back **Tashard Choice** shine. If you are still alive in your fantasy league (which I am), Choice is a decent flex play, if he's still available. Thanks to Christmas, we have NFL action on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday this week!

Picks: After posting a 3-1 record last week, I am currently 23-18-2 against the spread this year. But this week is another tough one. I make my picks on Wednesdays, which is a handicap since not all the spreads are out yet and I'm not sure which players will be active or not. But here goes: I'll take the Cowboys minus 7 in Arizona, the Lions plus 3.5 in Miami, the Rams minus 2 at home vs. the Niners, the Bills plus 9 at home vs. New England, and the Falcons minus 3 at home vs. the Saints. Happy holidays, y'all.



THE MAIN EVENT

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** The 7-6 Toros host West Conference rivals the Tulsa 66ers (7-5) with Marcus Cousin from the University of Houston and Carldell “Squeaky” Johnson (pictured) leading the way for Austin. *Thu., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$5-100. www.austintoros.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball CTX Holiday Classic: Concordia vs. Wisconsin-Platteville: *Wed., Dec. 29, 7:30pm. Wisconsin-Platteville vs. Beloit: Thu., Dec. 30, 3pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr. Women's Basketball CTX Winter Classic:* Coe vs. Howard Payne: *Wed., Dec. 29, 3pm. Concordia vs. Goucher: Wed., Dec. 29, 5:30pm. Goucher vs. Howard Payne: Thu., Dec. 30, 5:30pm. Concordia vs. Coe: Thu., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr. athletics.concordia.edu.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Texas A&M-Commerce: *Thu., Dec. 30, 7pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Rice: *Thu., Dec. 30, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

★ **SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Nebraska Wesleyan: *Tue., Dec. 28, 3pm. Robertson Center. Women's Basketball* Vs. Worcester State: *Wed., Dec. 29, 3pm. Robertson Center. www.southwesternpirates.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events each month: hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. *Mon., Dec. 27, 6:30pm. Free. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601-K S. Congress, 383-1191. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOCIATION Now registering for a bunch of fun holiday kids' sports camps. www.waya.org.

CHAPARRAL ICE Austin's premier rink folks offer free first lessons every Saturday for ages 6 and older. Also, check out their men's, women's, and youth hockey leagues. “Try Me” clinics: *Saturdays, noon. Chaparral Ice, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500 and Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free. www.chaparralice.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has lots of available walks, hikes, and more. www.wildbasin.org.

ZILKER HOLIDAY TREE 5K See more at left. *Zilker Park. Starting point at Zilker Tree. 472-3254. Sun., Dec. 26, 4:30pm. \$17-35. www.runtex.com/web/2-1693.asp.*

AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION Check website for fun biking adventures. www.austincycling.org/rides.html.



‘Lupita Murillo Tinnen: American DREAM’

Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca,
477-1064
www.womenandtheirwork.org
Through Jan. 6

It's a real shame that the 41 United States senators who said “no” to the DREAM Act on Dec. 18 weren't forced to spend an hour with Lupita Murillo Tinnen's photographic portraits of college students before casting their votes. Perhaps seeing 16 young

people whose lives could be truly transformed by the passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act – looking at them up close in their bedrooms, absorbing their words that describe how hard they work, how much they've achieved, and what they aspire to be – would have persuaded these politicians to view the vote not just in the generalized terms of the immigration debate, where they can look tough to some protectionist base (I'm looking at you, Cornyn and Hutchison), but in terms of specific individuals who are hungry for and deserving of a shot at citizenship, who could be granted their own chance to succeed in what is supposed to be the Land of Opportunity.

The images show us that these young people are already Americans, as assimilated as can be. We see proof in the stuffed Eeyore on the shelf in *Culinary Arts*, age 10½; the Mickey Mouse pillowcase on the bed and Spider-Man posters above it in *Culinary Arts/Sign Language*, age 3; the elaborate homecoming mums adorning the wall in *Undecided*, age 2; the souvenir photo from Sea World in *Business*, age 14. (The photo titles refer to each subject's college major and the age at which each was brought to the U.S.) The rooms of these children of undocumented immigrants are not shrines to cultures beyond our borders; they are so rooted in American idols, rituals, and goods, they could belong to any kid in the land.

But Tinnen shows us much more than these students' absorption of our pop culture. She provides evidence of her subjects' efforts to become part of this country through their deeds, doing their best to better themselves and contribute to their new homeland. In *Medals*, an impressive clutch of awards hangs from one student's hand. In *Mechanical Engineering*, age 2, the subject's numerous certificates of merit are displayed. “I want to be able to help others,” writes the subject of *International Studies/Inter-American Studies*, age 8 in text printed across the image. And the subject

of *Criminal Justice*, age 15 writes, “I have been trying to make a difference.” Aren't these the very citizens we want in this country, people of intelligence and drive, of social conscience and civic duty? Why would we not do everything we can to give these young women and men a secure place in our society, where they might be even more productive than they've been already?

I suppose if you consider the young people who could acquire legal status through the DREAM Act only in the abstract, as the faceless offspring of immigrants illegally taking advantage of our country's freedoms and opportunities, then you might be able to dismiss them all outright. But Tinnen doesn't allow us that luxury. She gives these anonymous figures individual histories, interests, accomplishments, hopes. She makes them personal. And she manages to put a face on them without putting faces on them. In each portrait, the subject's features are turned away from the camera or obscured by some object. Part of the purpose is protection, to safeguard the identities of these undocumented students, but the practice also conveys a sense of the insecurity of these students' lives, not being free to open themselves fully to the world, uncertain of their futures. We draw most of our sense of who they are from their surroundings, but as we see them more as individuals, we yearn to see *all* of them, to gaze upon their features and look into their eyes. But we can't.

Given her eye for telling detail, her sense of composition and color, and her ability to communicate mood, Tinnen's achingly pensive portraits would be well worth our attention even without the subject she's addressing. But the plight of her subjects, their legal status unresolved despite their best efforts, adds undeniably to their impact. These pictures hit hard. And given the political shifts in Congress and the recent failure of the Senate to pass the DREAM Act, they will likely retain their plaintive power, I'm sad to say, for some time to come. – Robert Faires

classical music

ONGOING

NOONDAY CONCERT This weekly series features local professionals, students, and guests. Lunch follows (reservations required by 10am on day of the concert; if e-mailing, write “lunch” in the subject line). *Thursdays, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free (lunch: \$5, adults; \$3, children). www.cpcastin.org.*

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its six performing orchestras for the spring semester. Membership is open to all students from public, private, charter, and home schools who are members in good standing with their respective school orchestras. See website for details. *Mon., Jan. 10, 6pm. Stephen F. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

visual arts

EVENTS

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR It's the 10th anniversary of this eminently shoppable powerhouse of local creativity and craft, now at the Marchesa in Lincoln Village. More art vendors than you can shake a newly discovered Picasso at, and much live music and general frivolity to brighten your way to the Christmas tree. *Through Dec. 24. Daily, 10am-10pm. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.*

CLOSING

360 GALLERY: HARVEST ART SHOW Local artists depict sunrise and sunset around the world. *Through Dec. 28. 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N. 522-6098. www.multiculturalartfestivals.org.*

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN This annual exhibition features recent work from participating members. Also, the 2010 trade portfolio “Wanderings of the Id: A Suite of Dreams/Nightmares.” *Through Dec. 29. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. www.womenprintmakers.com.*

CLAYWAYS An array of work by local potters. *Through Dec. 24. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., noon-5pm. 5442 Burnet Rd., 459-6445. www.clayways.com.*

FASTFRAME'S PRICKLY PEAR GALLERY: FIVE AUSTIN ARTISTS Check out Kim Brill's kiln-formed glass, Amy Hillenbrand's still-life oils, Nancy Michalewicz's wildlife oils, Debbi Smith Rourke's landscapes, and Paula Simpson's **edible chocolate paintings**. *Through Dec. 24. 4301 W. William Cannon, 288-8825. www.austinfastframe.com.*

LA PEÑA GALLERY: WE TO THE EDGE OF TIME Artwork by six women from Tamaulipas who are students of Cuban artist Jose Hernandez. *Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress #300, 477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.*

QUALITY FRAMES AND ART: SURREALISM AND SKYSCAPES New work by Drew Mounce. *Through Dec. 27. 3663 Bee Caves Rd. #4. 328-3631.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: WILL KLEMM New paintings delight the gallery walls. *Through Dec. 23. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART: TWO GUYS FROM READING + JESSE SUBLETT Antiques dealer Mike Miller lacerates vintage photos to create his silhouette collages; Dave “Big Dutch” Nally goes to town with colored pencil, acrylics and watercolor, and jewelry from found metal objects. And there's the direct-from-his-Moleskine “Colorful Women” show by author and musician Jesse Sublett, “Paint from Pain” works by Ian McLagan, and more. *Through Dec. 23. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

ONGOING

AMOA: 20 YEARS OF FLATBED PRESS The Austin Museum of Art's celebrating a double-decade of local fine-art print powerhouse Flatbed Press with a retrospective that features work by **Julie Speed**, **Trenton Doyle Hancock**, **Terry Allen**, **Michael Ray Charles**, **Melissa Miller**, **James Surls**, and others. Finally, a higher-profile show of what brilliance Flatbed has generated for so long. And “**New Works by Eric Zimmerman**.” Recommended. *Through Feb. 12. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

ART IN A NUTSHELL Ismael Cavazos, creator of “The Old Man in the Peanut,” features his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. *2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos St., 457-0171. www.pablotaobadastudio.com.*

ARTHOUSE This newly remodeled stunner of a visual arts venue has a sweet array of exhibitions and artists' talks to delight and inform and confound you. **Mequitta Ahuja: “Automythography II”** *Through Jan. 2. Ryan Hennessee: **The Specious Present at 700 Congress*** *Through Jan. 2. Jason Middlebrook: “More Art About Buildings and Food”* *Through Jan. 16. Sofia Cordova: “Fiebre Tropical”* *Through Jan. 16. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

AUSTIN ART GARAGE Original art by Austin artists. *2200-J S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers glass art, classes, and more. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

AUSTIN DETAILS + ART: BEST OF THE FESTS The proprietors daresay they've gathered all the best art from the various holiday festivals around town. *Through Jan. 31. 106 E. Eighth, 391-0999. www.austindetailsart.com.*

AUTHENTICITY GALLERY: LUMINESCENCE Lighted plexi towers designed and built by a local team, featuring *Kokopelli* by Kathi Herrin and *Luminescent Vines* by Greta Olivas. *Through Dec. 31. 910 Congress, 478-2787. www.authenticitygallery.com.*

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: TURNER TO MONET Transcendent art from 19th century masters Turner, Degas, Manet, Monet, and others, in this exhibition from the Walters Art Museum collection. *Through Jan. 2. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Handmade glass art and jewelry. *108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY: New works by Augusto Brocca, Mary Morse, Jeffrey Primeaux, Kathleen Wilson, Tom Bishop, and Marja Spearman. *Through Jan. 15. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

CHAMPION GALLERY: DAN RUSHTON The artist's new show, “Planted,” offers vivid images created by layering piece upon piece upon piece of painted paper. **Chris Sauter's** “Exploding Silos” paintings are featured in the Project Room. *Through Jan. 15. 800 Brazos, 354-1035. www.championcontemporary.com.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: 10TH ANNIVERSARY GROUP SHOW Many of the works here can be bought for less than \$1,000, and the people responsible for them are **Malcolm Bucknall**, **Ellen Berman**, **Cynthia Camlin**, **Jimmy Jalapeño**, **Lance Letscher**, **George Krause**, **Lauren Levy**, **Marjorie Moore**, **Joseph Phillips**, **Beili Liu**, **Jana Swec**, and, wow, even more. *Through Jan. 22. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: CAPRICE PIERUCCI, DAVID EVERETT, AND DAVID HEFNER Three artists with distinct but strangely complementary styles brighten and complicate the walls of this fine gallery. *Through Dec. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

For Visual Arts Spaces, check out
austinchronicle.com/visualarts.



ILLUSTRATIVE WORKS AND SCULPTURES ARE FEATURED AT GRAYDUCK GALLERY, WHERE ARTISTS ALLEN BREWER AND PAMELA VALFER ARE CURRENTLY 'DRAWN TOGETHER'

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

DOMY BOOKS: YOU CAN OBSERVE A LOT BY WATCHING Devon Dikeou, the daring doyenne of *zing* magazine fame and much other creative brilliance, presents a show about how connections are made, where they lead (or don't), and the value of those connections, the various ways they can be lost, destroyed, outdated. Recommended. *Through Jan. 13.* 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

DUMONT GALLERY Linda Dumont: cityscapes, abstracts, and portraits. Call for appointment. 815 E. 52nd. 698-1890. www.lindadumont.com.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

GALLERY AT MUSEO: ABOUT FACE Works by Lisa Bussett, Nicole Jeffords, and Maria Lyle. *Through Jan. 11.* 11266 Taylor Draper. www.museolive.com.

GALLERY BLACK LAGOON: GROUP SHOW Paintings, mixed media, assemblages, and more: new works by David Lujan, Jeffrey Swanson, Dieter Geisler, Max Voss-Nester, Jamie Spinello, and Kristen Van Patten. *Through Jan. 15.* 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: DRAWN TOGETHER Allen Brewer's drawings mix text and images on used documents to create strange palimpsests; Pamela Valfer reorganizes taxidermy and the kitschiness of flocked animal banks into something altogether different. *Through Jan. 9.* 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: THE LANGUAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY The Gernsheim Collection's holdings on display here highlight photography's first 150 years, including work by Lewis Carroll, Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, and others. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

JCC GALLERY: ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN Historical images from the famous photographer of the 1920s and 1930s. 7300 Hart, 735-8000. www.shalomastin.org.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY 411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: CHARLIE FERGUSON In "Wasted Expressions," the photographer's painterly abstractions include parts of metal recycling centers, construction and demolition sites, and random street corners. *Through Jan. 8.* 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.lnowlingallery.com.

LAUGHING CARDINAL GALLERY: RELIQUARY BOX An exhibition of works new, old, rediscovered, and reclaimed by Kelly Mae Newhouse. 2503-A E. Sixth.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: EWAN GIBBS Miniature graphite portraits of Austin landmarks and anonymous interior scenes: monochrome and meticulous. See review, right. *Through Jan. 8.* 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MIX 'N' MASH More than 200 local and regional artists present new works of art on 12-by-12-inch panels. *Through Jan. 2.* 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

MITCHIE'S GALLERY presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

NEW EAST ARTS GALLERY Work from Black and Bluebird Studios, David Zvanut, Ed Watson, Erica Howard, Caminamos Juntos, and other fine local artists. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

REVERSE GALLERY: WORKS OF SPRING Michael Bacon paints abstracts on the back of clear vinyl, and his works are viewed through the untouched side. 612 Brazos #100, 592-0219. www.michaelabacon.com.

SCANLAN GALLERY: FLORA & FAUNA Thematic work by Melissa Miller, Linda Ridgway, Liz Ward, Nance Frieze, and Madeline Irvine. 2900 Bunny Run, 327-1213. www.sstx.org.

SCARBROUGH BUILDING LOBBY: SHIFTING CONSCIOUSNESS Paintings by Matchi. *Through Jan. 1.* 101 W. Sixth. www.matchiart.com.

STUDIO L: METAL ART STUDIO SHOW Behold the work of nationally known copper sculptor Daryl G. Colburn. Also, pieces in diverse metal media by Jacob Colburn, Erin Waters' photography, silver jewelry by Rita Marie Ross, and Sandy Muckleroy. 2309 Thornton, 577-3479. www.darylgcolburn.com.

STUDIO2GALLERY: LIBRARY FOLIAGE This show offers a massive volume of creative talents that have interpreted humans' love of and relationships with books. *Through Jan. 22.* 1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102. www.studio2gallery.com.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK: AMERICAN DREAM Without ever revealing a face, photographer Lupita Murillo Tinnen creates powerful portraits of undocumented students. *Through Jan. 6.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

SPACES

LAURA BUSH LIBRARY: BEN LIVINGSTON More than just gas and glass: the acclaimed neon sculptor's early allegorical paintings. 9411 Bee Caves Rd., 327-3045.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CITY GLASS: WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES 1105 E. Sixth, 584-9323. www.cityglass.us.

ATELIER 3-D: A SCULPTORS' STUDIO is a centrally located sculpture studio (featuring the work of Steve Dubov, Heather Tolleson, and Terry Wilemon) that offers ongoing classes and workshops for all skill levels; the venue's also open to artists looking for workspace and tools. Call or see the website for details. 701 Tillery, 385-1115. www.atelier3-d.com.

CO-LAB: CALL FOR PROPOSALS The collective maintains an open and ongoing call for proposals regarding installation-, performance-, video-, public-, and community-based projects. E-mail for details. colabspace@gmail.com.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS: CLASSES 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

HELIOS KILN GLASS STUDIO: CLASSES AND DEMONSTRATIONS 10700 Anderson Mill, 996-0960. www.helioglass.com.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY Art Seen Alliance presents a live model painting and drawing session. Bring your own supplies. *Mondays, 7-9pm.* 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$5. www.artseenalliance.com.

litera

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

WRITE BY NIGHT Write, read, collaborate, or just kick back and dream: It's the place you've been looking for. See www.writebynight.net for details. 322-5242.

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP meets to write, read, and discuss screenplays. *Mondays, 6:30pm.* Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 444-4357 or 328-3155.

BOOKPEOPLE CLUBS Hard Word Book Club cocks the *Journal of the Gun Years* by Richard Matheson. *Wed., Dec. 29, 7pm.* The Voyage Out Book Club asks the questions in *The Interrogation* by J.M.G. LeClezio. *Sun., Jan. 2, 5pm.* Rewritten History Book Club rides *Half-Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls. *Wed., Jan. 5, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

SHAKESPEARE ALOUD Austin Shakespeare reads an entire play aloud (like, an act each week) and stops often to discuss the images, characters, and story. *Sundays, 5-7pm.* Greater Austin Creative Alliance, 701 Tillery, Box 9, 247-2531. \$5. www.austinsakespeare.org.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

THE WRITING CLUB FOR YOUTH This six-week creative writing program led by Spike Gillespie is for students in fifth through eighth grades at three Austin-area schools. Every student receives an anthology including works by each student. The 2011 Writing Club starts in January. O. Henry Museum, 409 E. Fifth, 472-1903. www.cityofaustin.org/ohenry/programs.htm.

OPEN MICS

CAFE CAFFEINE Hosted by Julian Enoch Bruno, Chris Corsbie, and Patrick Boswell. *Wednesdays, 6-9pm.* Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.

FAIR BEAN *Fridays, 5-7pm.* Fair Bean Coffee, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN. www.fairbeancoffee.com.

THE HIDEOUT features Ammon Taylor, wicked cabaret wit. *Mondays, 6-10pm.* The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

SPOKEN & HEARD ASL interpreter available. *Sundays, 7-10pm.* Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbutcoffee.com.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY FOURTH THURSDAY No features, but a round-robin reading all night. Ralph Hausser hosts. *Thu., Dec. 23, 7-9pm.* NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. Free. www.newworlddeli.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ARDENT! POETRY IN THE ARTS Editor Dillon McKinsey seeks your poetry submissions. E-mail for details. rimer777@gmail.com.

AIPF DI-VERSE YOUTH 2011 Austin International Poetry Festival's youth anthology. *Deadline Feb. 1.* www.aipf.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! o unbind us! have fun Jane! run Jane run in red rubber boots yellow slicker as outside the rain like rooms of mud pies thick & rare. how she splash splashes the polliwogs in a jar set free the cat tails wands batons signal flares. she stirs to breathe sighs watches turtles raise their heads. look! rainsundrops on a cedar log! & all the things that burn that grind her dissolving to a cup of chocolate & a warm friend. Namaste. Be warm.

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE The Women's Storybook Project collects donations of new books so an incarcerated mother can connect with her child through literature. *Through Dec. 25.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research, 418-8985. www.storybookproject.org.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

watched Dad's lips for the faintest
hint of movement, my only warning
of the fateful words of a father
to a son hooked in the leaden depths
of manhood, when, all of a sudden,
our three rods bowed with bass, the start
of a catch so grand it took our stringer
and the bottom of the boat to hold it,
enough fish to feed, the rest
of my adolescence, the throngs
of bleak silence between us.

— Larry D. Thomas, "Of Loaves and Fishes,"
from *Five Lavender Minutes of an Afternoon*

'Ewan Gibbs: Here and There'

Lora Reynolds Gallery,
360 Nueces #50, 215-4965,
www.lorareynolds.com
Through Jan. 8



Start with what you know: a local landmark, say, or a bedroom suite from some continental resort's brochure. Capture it with your best, most basic tools: eyes, brain, pencil, paper. You're the artist; you're Ewan Gibbs. This is your third exhibition at Lora Reynolds Gallery.

You, reader, you're the potential viewer this writer must coax toward a gallery. Let's start with what you know: Chuck Close, the way he begins his huge portraits with grids, builds faces from rectangles and squares that, when they're near, break up into concentric angles of swirling colors. Sure, you know that: Some of those works are as ubiquitous as they are brilliant.

Ewan Gibbs does sort of the same thing, let's say. Except that, in this show, *he* works small, with the images of landmarks – landmarks of Austin, highlights of its skyline – and generic hotel interiors reduced to postage-stamp size. Except that *he* doesn't use color or paints at all, but renders the scaled-down urban scenes with tiny squares, inspired by the grids of knitting-pattern stitches, of monochrome graphite; he carefully varies the pressure of his precise hand toward imparting the shadow and heft that will move each subject beyond the grid and into your eyes' realization.

It's an eerily machinelike two-dimensional reconstruction of architectural space, manifest via delicate human agency. Miniature, meticulous. Start with what you know, explore your city's shrines to art, and maybe end the year with these quiet gray-toned bursts of information at Lora Reynolds Gallery.

— Wayne Alan Brenner

film listings



D: Tom Hooper; with Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Derek Jacobi, Jennifer Ehle, Guy Pearce, Michael Gambon, Eve Best, Timothy Spall. (R, 118 min.)

We were colonists once, subjects of a crown, finding our inarticulate way in a strange land with too many native tongues, none of which we spoke, most of which we feared. Eventually, we became fluent with the assistance of steel and cordite – tools as baffling and treacherous in the long run as ignorance

was in the short. Language, or the lack thereof, is as much a key to what we now call civilization as its absence was generations ago. Speech, whether it takes the form of eloquent diplomacy, familial comfort, or prewar leadership, is ostensibly the stiff upper lip of *The King's Speech*. It's a "keep calm, carry on" wartime melodrama of the first order, and stiff though it may be, it is never less than brilliantly done. This is no simple elocutionary lesson. It is, instead, a peerless period drama featuring a stammering, unsure, and borderline ordinary (as ordinary as a duke can be) man forced into greatness by history. This may be musty and faded history to us Yanks, but in 1936, Prince Albert, the Duke of York (Firth, brilliantly human), was forced to become King George VI when his brother, King Edward VIII (Pearce), scandalously abdicated the throne for the love of an American divorcée. Bad enough for any man, yes, but this royal disaster was soon followed by Germany's invasion of Poland and the first deadly gambits in "Mr. Hitler's" war. Worse still, the new king is a stutterer, unable to master Marconi's world-changing wireless radio. (And you thought Prince Charles had a rough time of it.) What ele-



vates *The King's Speech* above the few peers it has (Stephen Frears' *The Queen* comes to mind) is Firth's intensely honest portrayal of "Bertie," a deeply flawed but finally heroic fellow who just happens to be thrust into history. His savior arrives, incongruously, in the form of Rush's dottily genius speech therapist, Lionel Logue. Logue's radical methods and much-maligned Australian background counter Bertie's self-doubt in ways that seem obvious at first, but take on new weight as war looms. This is a knowing, sincere, and beautifully shot film that, unlike Frears' *Queen*, takes on the meatiest slabs of dark history and renders these curtsy-courting Balmoralians as something other than figureheads. Can you imagine a time when the British Empire – and by extension, *everything* – was in peril, and the entire future of humanity rested on one slipshod and timorous tongue? It happened in a flash that went on to last six grueling years, but *The King's Speech* brings a country's amorphous fear of war and a sudden king's dread of his hesitant supremacy into perfect, uncommon focus. – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

new reviews

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS D: Rob Letterman; with Jack Black, Emily Blunt, Jason Segel, Amanda Peet, Billy Connolly. (PG, 93 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this update of the satiric Jonathan Swift novel, Black plays a travel writer who becomes lost on the island of Lilliput in the Bermuda Triangle, where he towers over the natives (*Opens Saturday.*) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

LITTLE FOCKERS D: Paul Weitz; with Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Blythe Danner, Jessica Alba, Teri Polo, Colin Baiocchi, Daisy Tahan, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Laura Dern, Harvey Keitel. (PG-13, 98 min.)

Apart from the smutty giggles that derive from the mere mention of the Focker family surname, this third entry in the now 10-year-old comedy franchise falls flat. Following *Meet the Parents* in 2000 and *Meet the Fockers* in 2004 – the films that traced the courtship and marriage of Greg (Stiller) and Pam (Polo) Focker as they learned to integrate all four off-kilter in-laws into their lives – the couple is now residing in Chicago and raising twins. Greg (né Gaylord – apparently "Gay" Focker is a joke too far) and Pam are remodeling a house and planning their children's fifth birthday party. The filmmakers went to the effort of hiring Keitel to play the construction foreman on their new house and then squander his presence by giving him only a couple lines of dialogue in a total of two scenes. (He should have been paid by the syllable.) They also throw out the Keitel with the bathwater when they have him go face-to-face with De Niro and then have the characters back off, neither one saying a word. This is typical of the movie's bait-and-switch approach, which creates expectations of a historic reteaming of the two acting legends and delivers zilch, and also replaces the promised mirth with juvenile smut. Just because the humor plays to our most childish instincts, I'm not sure that should qualify *Little Fockers* for a PG-13 rating. Consider these episodes: A sexually rapacious pharmaceutical rep (Alba), whose name – Andi Garcia – is milked for endlessly obvious laughs – has chosen Greg to be the spokesman for her company's new erectile dysfunction drug, Sustengo. During their introductory meeting, she unnecessarily demonstrates her unique skills as an enema-giver. In another sequence, Jack Byrnes (De Niro) tries Sustengo, and when the pill's effects don't subside after the recommended four hours, Greg is required to inject an antidote into his father-in-law's penis – a scene made even more "comical" when it is witnessed by one of Greg's 5-year-olds. The film repeats the name "Focker" more times than you can imagine and gets added mileage from Jack wanting to anoint Greg as new family patriarch, whom he terms the "GodFocker." The twins' birthday party provides the film's extended climax, but its lackluster highlights include grown men fighting in bouncy castles and

an impromptu kiss between Pam Focker's ex-boyfriend Kevin (Wilson) and her mother-in-law (Streisand). The concluding sequence of the movie unites both families during the holiday season, a choice that seems to promise more *Focker* films to come, offering as they do ecumenical possibilities of Jewish and Christian amity for the busy movie-going week of Christmas.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MANMADHAN AMBU

D: K.S. Ravikumar; with Kamal Haasan, Madhavan, Trisha Krishnan. (NR, 160 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This Tamil-language romantic comedy was filmed entirely in Europe and on a cruise ship.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

TEES MAAR KHAN D: Farah Khan; with Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Akshaye Khanna. (NR, 130 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. A master thief executes a most creative heist in this Bollywood action comedy.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

TRUE GRIT D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Josh Brolin, Hailee Steinfeld, Barry Pepper, Elizabeth Marvel. (PG-13, 110 min.)

Charles Portis' best-selling novel *True Grit* provided the source material for the 1969 movie that earned John Wayne an Oscar for his larger-than-life portrayal of the "fat, one-eyed" U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn, as well as this remake by Joel and Ethan Coen. Some reviewers have compared this new film to the Coen brothers' *No Country for Old Men* in terms of its Western setting, while at the same time incorrectly commenting on the brothers' unusual tackling of a generic Western, as though the distinctiveness of the pair's vision existed *sui generis*, apart from the entire history of film and its generic breakdowns. They forget that the Coens broke onto the film scene with *Blood Simple*, a contemporary take on classic film noir. Throughout their entire careers, these writer/director/producer/editors (their editing is conducted under the pseudonym Roderick Jaynes) have tweaked genre tropes, most commonly comedy, injecting large doses of very black humor into otherwise frothy concoctions. (See *Burn After Reading*, *Intolerable Cruelty*, and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* for examples.) It is the dark comedy inherent in the language of Portis' novel which, no doubt, drew the Coens to this remake. (Remember that the last time the Coens went out for a remake – the comical crime film *The Ladykillers* – they exaggerated the comic aspects of the characters and achieved very mixed results.) The Coens' version of *True Grit* remains faithful to the Portis novel, although much of the book's humor falls flat in the course of its delivery in the film. Only Damon, as the Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (which he pro-



True Grit

nounces “LaBeef”) captures a real sense of the boneheadedness of his character’s grandiloquent language and self-importance. This *True Grit* sticks with the novel’s structure of having 14-year-old Mattie Ross narrate the story as a reflection on events that occurred decades before. Mattie (Steinfeld, a terrific young newcomer to the screen), more than the others, is tasked with delivering the formal language, which often gains its humor from its sanctimonious undertones or the contradictory solemnity and cleverness that emerges from the mouth of one so young. Mattie hires Rooster Cogburn (Bridges) to capture the man who killed her father, and here the comedy differs from the original screen version, which existed as a showcase for John Wayne, whose performance exaggerates the cornball drunkenness of the marshal. Bridges plays it straighter, giving the role a lived-in feeling and abandoning all sentimentality, although whatever line of thought which led to the actor delivering lines in a mumbling, back-of-the-throat growl is a true mystery. Photographed by the Coens’ longtime cinematographer Roger Deakins, *True Grit* (much of which

was filmed here in Austin and in nearby Granger) has some handsome sequences but, overall, lacks these filmmakers’ usually precise eye. The scenes filmed within the historic towns too frequently betray the set-dressing propping them up, and the ones filmed out on the range often show traces of the trompe l’oeils involved in modern moviemaking. And there is just no excuse for the kind of errors in *True Grit* that would otherwise cause students to get bounced from film school. These instances – such as the one in which Mattie crosses a river on horseback and emerges completely dry – are unpardonable (though, to be fair, maybe the Coens were mimicking the original, which flubs the same match cut). All this is not to say that the Coens’ *True Grit* is an awful film; it’s just that these filmmakers have set their own standards for excellence, and *True Grit* falls short. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

openings & ratings

The King’s Speech (R)

Gulliver’s Travels (PG)

Little Fockers (PG-13)

Manmadhan Ambu (NR)

Tees Maar Khan (NR)

True Grit (PG-13)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

● La bomba

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a FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARC film

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showtimes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Black Swan: Fri, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00; Sat, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20; Sun, 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20; Mon-Tue, 4:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30; Wed, 4:00pm; Thu (12/30), 4:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30
Terror Tuesday: Creepshow: Tue, 10:10pm
Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along: Sat, 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: Sun, 6:45pm; Tue, 7:00pm
Music Monday: Head: Mon, 9:45pm
Action Pack: The Sing-Along Mix Tape: Thu (12/30), 9:40pm
Action Pack: Super Troopers Quote-Along: Thu (12/30), 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: The Tale of the Dean's Wife: Wed, 12:30am
High for the Holidays: The Holy Mountain: Wed, 10:00pm
Celluloid Handbag: Valley of the Dolls: Wed, 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon: Sun, 9:50pm; Mon, 7:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00pm
Family Fun: Gremlins: Sat-Sun, 11:25am; Tue, 11:25am
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 11:00am, 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 1:25, 2:25, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20, 10:20pm
The Tourist: Fri, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35pm; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; Mon, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:35, 10:10pm; Tue, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/30), 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:35, 10:10pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 12:30, 3:35, 7:30; Sat-Thu (12/30), 12:15, 3:30, 7:30, 10:30
**True Grit:* Fri, 11:30am, 1:30, 2:20, 5:10, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:30am, 1:30, 2:20, 5:10, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45pm
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* 11:20am, 1:40, 4:40, 8:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:15am, 2:05, 5:00, 8:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:55am, 2:20, 3:55, 6:50, 9:35pm
Four Lions: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 7:55pm
The King's Speech: Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:40am, 1:25, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm
Little Fockers: Fri, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:35pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:05am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm
127 Hours: Fri, 11:05am, 4:05pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:25am, 5:10pm
Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale: Fri, 1:35pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 1:35, 10:40
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 12:25, 3:40, 7:05; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05; Mon, 12:35, 3:35, 7:00, 10:05; Tue-Thu (12/30), 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05
True Grit: Fri, 10:45am, 11:10, 1:30, 2:20, 4:15, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090.
Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
The Fighter: Fri, 10:50am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40pm; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50pm; Mon, 11:10am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50pm; Tue-Thu (12/30), 11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50pm
TV at the Alamo: Glee: Tue, 9:45pm
TV at the Alamo: NBC Thursdays: Thu (12/30), 10:00pm
The Tourist: Fri, 10:30am, 1:05, 5:10, 7:55pm; Sat, 11:00am, 2:15, 6:30, 10:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 2:15, 6:40, 10:45pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 11:00am, 2:05, 3:50, 7:00pm; Sat, 12:20, 3:25, 7:40, 9:05; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:30, 3:35, 7:40, 9:15
True Grit: Fri, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:25, 7:20pm; Sat, 11:30am, 1:25, 4:05, 4:50, 7:10, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:30am, 1:30, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/30), 11:30am, 1:25, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 9:55pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
Black Swan: Fri, 11:50am, 12:30, 2:30, 3:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:05pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:50am, 12:30, 2:30, 3:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:05, 9:55, 10:30pm
The Fighter: Fri, 12:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 6:50, 8:00; Sat-Thu (12/30), 12:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 6:50, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35
I Love You Phillip Morris: Fri, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10pm
The King's Speech: Sat-Thu (12/30), 12:10, 12:40, 3:10, 3:50, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40, 10:25
127 Hours: Fri, 3:30pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 3:30, 10:00
The Social Network: 12:20, 7:10

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Black Swan: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30pm
Burlesque: Fri, 1:50pm
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55pm; Sun, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/30), 10:50am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55pm
The Fighter: 11:50am, 2:40, 5:35, 8:15, 10:55pm
**Gulliver's Travels:* Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:20am, 1:45, 4:10, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1: 10:05pm
How Do You Know: Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm; Sun, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/30), 10:25am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm
**The King's Speech:* Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50pm; Sun, 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/30), 10:30am, 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50pm
**Little Fockers:* 10:20am, 11:25, 12:55, 1:55, 3:25, 4:35, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:50pm
Love & Other Drugs: Fri, 10:00am, 2:55, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55pm
**Megamind (3-D):* Fri, 12:35pm
Tangled: 4:55, 7:30
**Tangled (3-D):* 9:30am, 11:55, 2:30pm
The Tourist: Fri, 9:40am, 11:15, 12:15, 2:50, 4:30, 5:25, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:40pm; Sat, 9:40am, 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:10, 10:40pm; Sun, 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:15; Mon-Thu (12/30), 9:40am, 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:10, 10:40pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* 9:45am, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45pm
**Tron: Legacy (closed captioned and descriptive video):* 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50pm
True Grit: 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25pm
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* 10:40am, 1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00pm

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Black Swan: Fri, 9:50am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:50am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40pm
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 10:30am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:30pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:30am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15pm
**The Fighter:* Fri, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:40, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:10am, 1:00, 3:40, 7:00, 9:50pm
**Gulliver's Travels:* Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:10am, 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1: Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 2:30, 6:20, 9:30pm; Sun, 11:10am, 2:30, 6:20pm
How Do You Know: Fri, 10:20am, 1:10, 4:30, 7:10pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:20am, 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55pm
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 10:50am, 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00pm;

Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:50am, 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:20, 10:30pm
Tangled: Fri, 9:40am, 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:40am, 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00pm
**The Tourist:* Fri, 10:40am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:30pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:40am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:30, 9:00pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 9:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 6:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 6:40, 9:40pm
**True Grit:* Fri, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm
**Yogi Bear:* 10:00am
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* Fri, 9:20am, 11:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:20am, 11:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:20pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
**Black Swan:* Fri, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30pm; Sat, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Fri, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10; Sat, 8:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:45am, 8:10pm
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:45am, 2:45, 5:35, 8:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
**The Fighter:* Fri, 12:15, 3:20, 6:30, Sat, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:15, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30
**Gulliver's Travels:* Sat, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm
How Do You Know: Fri, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05; Sat, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 11:00am, 12:20, 1:45, 3:05, 4:30, 5:50, 7:15, 8:35pm; Sat, 1:40, 3:05, 4:30, 5:50, 7:15, 8:35, 10:00; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 12:20, 1:45, 3:05, 4:30, 5:50, 7:15, 8:35, 10:00pm
Tangled: Fri, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:55pm; Sat, 2:15, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30pm
**The Tourist:* Fri, 11:40am, 12:20, 5:05, 7:45pm; Sat, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:40am, 12:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25pm
**Tron: Legacy:* Fri, 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, Sat, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 11:00am, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15pm; Sat, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15pm
**True Grit:* Fri, 11:05am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50pm; Sat, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:05am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35pm
**Yogi Bear:* Fri, 12:30, 3:10, 6:40, 8:05; Sat-Thu (12/30), 3:00, 5:30
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* Fri, 11:35am, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55pm; Sat, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:35am, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 6pm.
Alpha and Omega: Fri, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15; Sat, 2:45, 5:15; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:15, 2:45, 5:15
Despicable Me: Fri, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50; Sat, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10
Hereafter: Fri, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, Sat, 3:30, 6:30, 9:40; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:40
Jackass 3D: Fri, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40pm; Sat, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:00; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:00pm
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole: Fri, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:15pm; Sat, 1:30, 4:15; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:05am, 1:30, 4:15pm
Life as We Know It: Fri, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15pm; Sat, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55pm
Paranormal Activity 2: Fri, 8:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 8:00, 10:15
Red: Fri, 7:30pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 7:30, 10:05
Saw 3D: Fri, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:05, 7:05pm; Sat, 1:50, 4:05, 7:05, 9:30; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:30am, 1:50, 4:05, 7:05, 9:30pm
Secretariat: Fri, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00; Sat, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
**Black Swan:* Fri, 11:40am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:40am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Fri, 10:05am, 12:50, 3:30, 6:10pm
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20pm
**The Fighter:* Fri, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:30, 7:30pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:30am, 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15pm
**Gulliver's Travels:* Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:45am, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:20pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1: Fri, 7:15pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 7:15, 10:30
How Do You Know: Fri, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:20, 7:10pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:15am, 1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00pm
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 9:50am, 11:00, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:50am, 11:00, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, 9:00, 10:10pm
Tangled: Fri, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35pm
The Tourist: Fri, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:05am, 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 9:10pm
**Tron: Legacy:* Fri, 9:40am, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 9:40am, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45pm
**True Grit:* Fri, 10:20am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:20am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50pm
**Yogi Bear:* 10:10am, 12:20, 2:50, 5:00pm
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* Fri, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20pm; Sat-Thu (12/30), 11:10am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:40pm

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium. **Call theatre for Dec. 25-30 showtimes.**
**Black Swan:* Fri, 10:15am, 1:00, 3:35, 6:10pm
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader:* Fri, 12:40, 5:30
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:50am, 2:45, 5:35pm
**The Fighter:* Fri, 10:35am, 1:20, 4:05, 7:00pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1: Fri, 10:50am, 2:05, 5:20pm
How Do You Know: Fri, 10:05am, 12:55, 3:45, 6:35pm
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 10:25am, 11:40, 1:05, 2:20, 3:55, 5:10, 6:25, 7:40pm
Tangled: Fri, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20pm
**The Tourist:* Fri, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45pm
**Tron: Legacy:* Fri, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:50, 6:55pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 11:25am, 2:15, 5:25pm
**True Grit:* Fri, 10:30am, 1:10, 4:10, 6:50pm
**Yogi Bear:* Fri, 10:20am, 3:20pm
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* Fri, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40pm

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN CULTURAL CENTER 600 River, 974-3772.
Dona Perfecta: Tue, 7:00pm

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday or Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05; Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30, 11:50; Sun-Thu (12/30), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
The Fighter: Fri, 11:00am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15pm; Sat, 11:00am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm, 12mid; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
**Gulliver's Travels (3-D):* Sat, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:05, 11:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 10:15am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:05pm
How Do You Know: Fri, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00pm; Sat, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12mid; Sun-Thu (12/30), 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30pm
Little Fockers: Fri, 10:20am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15pm; Sat, 10:20am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 10:20am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm
Tangled: Sat-Thu (12/30), 10:00am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20pm
**Tangled (3-D):* Fri, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05pm
The Tourist: Fri, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10pm; Sat, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30pm
**Tron: Legacy (3-D):* Fri, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:00, 4:20, 4:40, 7:05, 7:20pm; Sat, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 10:30am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50pm
**Yogi Bear (3-D):* Fri, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:20pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:20pm

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesday. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Fri, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45
**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3-D):* Fri, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40pm; Sat, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10; Sun-Thu (12/30), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10pm
Due Date: Fri, 8:05pm; Sat, Mon, 8:05, 10:35; Tue, 8:05pm; Wed, 10:35pm; Thu (12/30), 8:05pm
**Gulliver's Travels:* Sat, 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40; Sun, 10:10am, 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/30), 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1: Fri, 12:30, 3:40, 7:05; Sat-Thu (12/30), 12:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:15
How Do You Know: Fri, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35; Sat, 1:55, 7:35, 10:25; Sun, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35; Mon, 1:55, 4:45, 10:25; Tue-Thu (12/30), 11:15am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25pm
How Do You Know (open captioned and descriptive audio): Fri, 11:15am; Sat, 4:45pm; Sun, 11:15am, 10:25pm; Mon, 11:15am, 7:35pm
**Little Fockers:* Fri, 11:20am, 12:05, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:50, 4:35, 5:05, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50pm; Sat, 12:05, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:50, 4:35, 5:05, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:00pm; Sun, 10:40am, 11:20, 12:05, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:50, 4:35, 5:05, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:20, 9:50, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/30), 11:20am, 12:05, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:50, 4:35, 5:05, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALPHA AND OMEGA D: Anthony Bell, Ben Gluck; with the voices of Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere, Dennis Hopper, Danny Glover, Larry Miller. (PG, 88 min.)

What a curious beast this kiddie flick is, with its two wolf packs turf-warring over a prime feeding ground for caribou but played out with an almost comic bloodlessness. Wolf cubs Kate (voiced by Panettiere) and Humphrey (voiced by Long) – she the tart alpha, he the court-jester omega – talk big about how delicious caribou tartare would taste but snack onscreen only on blueberries and cupcakes and the occasional bone licked clean of anything remotely resembling dead meat. *Alpha and Omega* is also something of a dirty bird: Two wolves howling at the moon is code for the mating dance. And, yes, they do in fact dance – and sing, too. The 3-D angle is the only one I can identify to justify *Alpha and Omega* not going straight to DVD, but it's a double-edged sword: While DreamWorks' team of animators produces quite painterly landscapes, the inflated ticket price exacerbates the sting of this film's dogged banality. (09/24/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Movies 8

BLACK SWAN D: Darren Aronofsky; with Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel, Barbara Hershey, Winona Ryder, Benjamin Millepied. (R, 108 min.)

Set within a New York ballet company, this drama-horror hybrid is potent stuff. In an opening dream sequence, an overlooked ballerina named Nina Sayers (Portman) imagines herself dancing the lead in *Swan Lake*. The dream, it turns out, is prophetic: Nina is tapped by the troupe's manipulative director (Cassel) to play the Swan Queen – both the sweet, virginal White Swan and her evil twin, the provocative Black Swan. Nina is a tentative young woman who still lives with her overbearing mother (Hershey). Already crumbling under the stresses of training and a twisted home life, soon enough she's having scary visions of her body's metamorphosis into a swan. This is about flight from self. That simple fact is obscured by Aronofsky's expert use of horror-film technique, wherein even the squish of a cut grapefruit is amplified to queasy, supremely uneasy effect. But what startles most is how exquisitely controlled his command of so much madness truly is. (12/10/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

BURLESQUE D: Steve Antin; with Cher, Christina Aguilera, Stanley Tucci, Cam Gigandet, Eric Dane, Julianne Hough, Kristen Bell, Peter Gallagher, Alan Cumming. (PG-13, 116 min.)

Burlesque bumps and grinds. And then it continues to grind and grind and grind. This new musical leaves no cliché unturned as it struggles to find the heart of cabaret. The girls at the Burlesque Lounge on the Sunset Strip dance onstage in exotic underwear while lip-synching risqué numbers, but no clothing is removed. Aguilera stars as Ali, the orphaned Iowa waitress who ditches her job, straps on her platform pumps, and heads for the glittering lights of Hollywood. The dialogue plods along predictably, and the performance numbers are edited like a cut-and-paste mosaic. Cher was a shrewd casting choice in terms of upping the film's camp cred, but the diva plays it straight as the club's proprietor and den mother, Tess. As *Burlesque* ground along its obvious and well-worn path, my inner voice indeed shouted, "Take it off," though my request was directed toward the projection booth rather than the dancers onstage. (12/03/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Barton Creek Square

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

D: Michael Apted; with Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, George Henley, Will Poulter, Tilda Swinton; with the voices of Liam Neeson, Simon Pegg. (PG, 112 min.)

This third film entry in the ongoing adaptation of C.S. Lewis' series of splendidly imagined children's books has all the elements of a rip-roaring Saturday-afternoon matinee (including 3-D) and the intended Christian allegory, yet a more appropriate rechristening would be *The Voyage of the Yawn Treader*. In a fantastical universe populated by a leonine Christ figure (Aslan, voiced by Neeson), a chatty seagoing mouse (Reepicheep, voiced by Pegg), and a vessel that appears to have been ripped straight from one of Ray Harryhausen's *Sinbad* epics, you'd expect some sort of gravitas. Lucy (Henley) and Edmund Pevensie (Keynes), accompanied by their cousin Eustace Scrubb (Poulter), are drawn into a magical painting, reuniting them with Barnes' Caspian, Aslan, and, eventually, Swinton's still awe-inspiring White Witch. *Dawn Treader* is bereft of the narrative complexity evidenced in the preceding films; it feels as if this franchise has run aground and is sinking under the weight of its own ambitions. (12/17/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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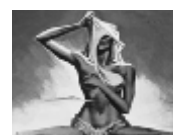
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DESPICABLE ME D: Chris Renaud, Pierre Coffin; with the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Julie Andrews, Miranda Cosgrove, Dana Gaier, Elsie Fisher, Will Arnett, Kristen Wiig. (PG, 95 min.)

Everyone knows that the villains are usually the most interesting characters. So the filmmakers were wise to give the megalomaniacal Gru (voiced amusingly by Carell) his own animated movie. The world of *Despicable Me* is reminiscent of *The Incredibles*, in which superheroes and supervillains fully participate in suburban life, blending in unnoticed by ordinary folk. Then, snotty new-villain-on-the-block Vector (Segel) pulls a stunt that bumps Gru from his No. 1 supervillain ranking. Gru retaliates by plotting to steal the moon. Part of his plan involves the adoption of three orphaned sisters (Cosgrove, Gaier, and Fisher), through whose demands for him to accompany them to ballet class and read bedtime stories – as well as some flashbacks that reveal him to be a villain with justifiable mommy issues – Gru discovers his sensitive side. Gru’s Minions – yellow, pill-shaped, bespectacled beings that gurgle in some sort of fractionally understandable language – are the movie’s ultimate scene-stealers. (07/09/2010)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

DUE DATE D: Todd Phillips; with Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis, Michelle Monaghan, Jamie Foxx, Juliette Lewis, Danny McBride, RZA, Matt Walsh. (R, 95 min.)

Due Date is the comedy delivered by director Phillips in between his breakout success, last year’s *The Hangover*, and its coming-soon-to-a-theatre-near-you sequel, which is already in production. Galifianakis, whose comic man-child schtick gets a full workout, plays Ethan Tremblay, gauche and rotund, against Downey Jr.’s Peter Highman, who is just trying to make it home to Los Angeles in time for the birth of his first child. Phillips steers this road-trip movie through a wicked variety of set-pieces and celebrity guest cameos. The problem with *Due Date* is that it is less funny at 95 minutes than it is in its succinct trailers. In between the jokes, the darker moments of *Due Date* emerge and deflate some of the froth. Nevertheless, in its best moments, the film’s duo of Galifianakis and Downey Jr. remind us of a bickering Laurel & Hardy digging themselves out of another fine mess. And we’re happy to be along for the ride. (11/05/2010)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Gateway, Metropolitan



McCabe & Mrs. Miller

McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971) D: Robert Altman; with Warren Beatty, Julie Christie. (R, 121 min.) **Austin Public Library: Wintry Westerns.** One of Altman’s very best films is this Old West-set story about American dreamers, greed, and lost innocence. Beatty plays the young, dumb founder of a rough-and-tumble mining town who hires the opium-smoking madam played by Christie to run the town’s subsequently successful brothel. All’s copacetic on the Western front until the land speculators and mining corporations make their deadly takeover moves. @Milwood Branch Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.



The Fighter

THE FIGHTER D: David O. Russell; with Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Melissa Leo, Amy Adams, Jack McGee, Mickey O’Keefe. (R, 115 min.)

Virtually flawless performances and directorial execution render *The Fighter* one of the most thrilling movies of 2010. Yes, *The Fighter* offers a new riff on the boxing film, but it’s also a drama about self-delusions, inner strength, and family as a source of conflict and sustenance. Boxer Dicky Eklund (Bale) was once known as the “Pride of Lowell, Mass.” Now he’s struggling with addiction and training his younger half brother Micky Ward (Wahlberg) to be a champion. The movie is based on incidents from the true-life story of Ward, who went on to have a storied career. However, *The Fighter* examines Ward’s early years, when he lost several fights, retired for the first time, romanced Charlene Fleming (Adams), and began his comeback. Russell’s characters are neither good nor bad, they are simply human beings imbued with virtues and faults. It is this intelligence that makes *The Fighter* a great and enduring human drama. (12/17/2010)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gold Class, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FOUR LIONS D: Chris Morris; with Riz Ahmed, Arshad Ali, Nigel Lindsay, Kayvan Novak, Adeel Akhtar. (R, 102 min.)

Quite probably the world’s first Islamic terrorist comedy, *Four Lions* is set in Sheffield, 150 miles north of London, and details the bumbling efforts of a group of radicalized Muslims who dream of becoming suicide bombers. Faisal (Akhtar) is soft-spoken and maybe soft in the head; Waj (Novak) is dim but eager to please; Barry (Lindsay), a white convert, is a bilious fanatic; and Hassan (Ali) is a wannabe rapper just looking for a community. But leader Omar (Ahmed) is a genuinely politicized and embittered young man with a wife and son. *Four Lions* is a riot of physical comedy, and much of the dialogue is sneakily hilarious in its sheer banality. Director Morris, in his first feature film, imperceptibly shifts from pure satire to accommodate a more complete and, yes, humanizing portrait of the conflicted jihadis. This is provocative stuff, to be sure. A comedy of errors and terrors? Who woulda think it? (11/05/2010)

– Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1

D: David Yates; with Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter, Julie Walters, Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Tom Felton, Rhys Ifans, Jason Isaacs, Helen McCrory, Peter Mullan. (PG-13, 146 min.)

The first half of a two-film adaptation of J.K. Rowling’s final book about the battle between the damaged boy-wizard Harry (Radcliffe) and the dark Lord Voldemort (Fiennes), *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* is, as a whole, the finest Potter film yet. From the superlative digital effects and original score to the saga-scoped camerawork, *Deathly Hallows* is all business – taut, fraught, and fearsome. When Voldemort’s minions, the Death Eaters, storm the Ministry, Harry and best friends Hermione (Watson) and Ron (Grint) go underground to find and destroy the remaining Horcruxes, talismans in which Voldemort safeguarded splinters of his soul. *Deathly Hallows* is still truthful to the spirit of these decent, sometimes goofy kid-characters, whom we’ve watched grow up in the course of 10 years. They remain fundamentally the same, only now with jaws set hard from troubled times. They’ve been through something epic, and for the first time, truly, so have we. (11/19/2010)

– Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



The Holy Mountain

The Holy Mountain (1973) D: Alejandro Jodorowsky; with Jodorowsky, Horacio Salinas, Zamira Saunders. (R, 114 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Trippy imagery, religious overtones, and hallucinatory symbolism are the hallmarks of this epic film from cult visionary Jodorowsky. @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 10pm.

HEREAFTER D: Clint Eastwood; with Matt Damon, Cécile de France, Frankie McLaren, George McLaren, Jay Mohr, Bryce Dallas Howard, Thierry Neuvic, Derek Jacobi, Marthe Keller, Richard Kind. (PG-13, 129 min.)

With *Hereafter*, Eastwood shows that he still has the ability to confound our expectations of him. *Hereafter* finds him in full-on contemplative mode even though the film’s assumption is that there is a life after death, one that is flooded with white light, imbues a feeling of all-knowing serenity, and is lined with minions of murky figures murmuring indecipherably to the newcomer. It turns out that the dead are a chatty bunch. Much of the blame for the film’s muzzy thinking has to go to screenwriter Peter Morgan (*The Queen, Frost/Nixon*). The movie is structured by three separate but converging storylines, and though the mechanics of bringing the three characters together in the same city are a bit creaky, you still have to give *Hereafter* props for setting its climactic convergence at the London Book Fair, which is surely an original filming location. That and the incredible CGI tsunami in the opening sequence are the film’s highlights. (10/22/2010)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

HOW DO YOU KNOW D: James L. Brooks; with Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, Owen Wilson, Jack Nicholson, Kathryn Hahn, Mark Linn-Baker, Lenny Venito. (PG-13, 120 min.)

How do you know when you’re in love? It’s been a while for me, but I remember a powerful urge to upchuck. In the same vein, professional softball player Lisa (Witherspoon) wears a pinched, pained expression whenever she contemplates the idea of loving George (Rudd), an unfailingly decent businessman who is currently under federal investigation. But wait! There’s another bachelor behind Door No. 2: Matty (Wilson), a Nationals ballplayer whose negotiations with monogamy mark some of the funnier moments in this disappointingly slack comedy from writer/director Brooks. *How Do You Know* isn’t a bomb, but it is bewildering how something so limp could come from a sharpshooter like Brooks, who never supplies a definitive answer to the open-ended title – there are pretty speeches, sure – but I think most everybody would agree you just know when it’s right. And in the case of *How Do You Know*, it’s not. (12/17/2010)

– Kimberley Jones

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS D: Glenn Ficarra, John Requa; with Jim Carrey, Ewan McGregor, Leslie Mann, Rodrigo Santoro, Antoni Corone, Brennan Brown. (R, 100 min.)

Loosely based on the outrageous life and incarcerated times of Texan con artist Steven Jay Russell, *I Love You Phillip Morris* is every bit as strange as its subject matter. Russell (Carrey) begins the film as a married Houston cop, who has children and a seriously religious life. His life changes when he declares his lust for the gay life to his wife (Mann) and decamps to South Beach, where he discovers “being gay is expensive.” Russell’s beyond-his-means lifestyle quickly attracts the attention of the authorities, and voilà, he’s Huntsville-bound. There he meets the titular Phillip Morris (McGregor), a shy, unassumingly gay boy-toy who instantly falls for this charming man. The pair’s eventual release, further fraudulent activities, and silly hijinks ensue. What is this film about? Damned if I know. It’s confused and confusing, by turns hilarious and off-putting. In short, it’s awfully hard to love *I Love You Phillip Morris*. (12/17/2010)

– Marc Savlov

★ Arbor

JACKASS 3D D: Jeff Tremaine. (R, 94 min.)

The cunning stuntwork of *Jackass*’ motley band of jackanapes is marginally less shocking this time out, even when we’re presented with scenes so bile-risible that the cameraman pukes on his own camera. Stomach contents and an outflow of redolent porta-potty effluvium rule the day, while testicles and taboos are smashed flat with equal abandon. *Jackass* is 10 years old this year but thankfully

evinces no more maturity than when it first premiered on MTV. In between Johnny Knoxville getting rammed senseless by a buffalo and tooth extraction via Lamborghini (an inspired bit, in theory), there are moments of comic brilliance that, cleverly, don't make you want to hurl. *Jackass* continues to rock on like your older brother's crazy best friend with the creepy gleam in his hooded eyes, only now you can pull up YouTube and see that sort of thing 24/7, should you feel the uncontrollable urge. (10/22/2010)

★★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS:

THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE D: Zack Snyder; with the voices of Helen Mirren, Geoffrey Rush, Jim Sturgess, Hugo Weaving, Emily Barclay, Abbie Cornish, Ryan Kwanten, Anthony LaPaglia, Miriam Margolyes, Sam Neill, Joel Edgerton. (PG, 91 min.)

Maybe prior familiarity with Kathryn Lasky's young adult book series would help overall comprehension. Starting with the impossible-to-remember title, this film is better off dubbed "that owl movie." Snyder, the director of action films with such streamlined titles as *Watchmen* and *300*, assembles top British and Australian actors for the vocal talent, but *Legend of the Guardians* seems to be more about talons than talent. The story takes place in a predatory world in which two young owlets are carried off by the bigger Pure Ones to do their bidding. The Pure Ones have some kind of plan for avian world domination, while the owls of Ga'Hoole fight back against evil. Lives are snuffed out and sacrificed with regularity, and the film maintains an extremely dark tone throughout. Adults thinking about taking their little ones to this PG-rated film should consider whether the kiddies are ready to witness the harsh and vulturous world of *Legend of the Guardians*. (10/01/2010)

★★ Movies 8

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT D: Greg Berlanti; with Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel, Josh Lucas, Christina Hendricks, Hayes MacArthur, Sarah Burns, Alexis Clagett, Brynn Clagett, Brooke Clagett. (PG-13, 113 min.)

With its sitcom-ready premise and its engaging and attractive leads, *Life as We Know It* lives up to its title: This romantic comedy is more of the same. In this improbable story, Holly Berenson (Heigl) and Eric Messer (Duhamel), who goes by his last name, become instant parents when their best friends (MacArthur and Hendricks of *Mad Men* fame) die in a car accident and leave a will that designates Holly and Messer as the child's guardians. Each is a friend of only one of the spouses, and their antipathy for each other is delineated in a blind date shown in the movie's preamble. Nevertheless, they move into their friends' house to raise adorable Sophie (the Clagett triplets). Eventually, they discover what we knew all along: These two belong together. Director Berlanti pads the film with numerous clichéd montages set to popular music, and the script brings little that's new to this baby shower. (10/08/2010)

★★ Movies 8

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS D: Edward Zwick; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Hathaway, Oliver Platt, Hank Azaria, Josh Gad, Gabriel Macht, Judy Greer, George Segal, Jill Clayburgh. (R, 112 min.)

Jake Gyllenhaal has always done better with edgy material that subverts his sunny, smiling look. But there are no hard angles to be found in this soft-hearted drama that straddles comedy, medical crisis, and the three-ring circus of Big Pharma in the Nineties. Gyllenhaal plays Jamie, a Pfizer rep who, when he lands the new Viagra account, happily combines his two great loves: sex and hustling. When free-spirit artist Maggie (Hathaway) enters the picture, the pair embarks on something of a no-

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strings-attached sex romp. Zwick's film bloats into sentimental hash when their love affair becomes complicated by Maggie's early-stage Parkinson's disease and creeping feelings of real, not entirely welcome love for each other. There's nothing wrong with sentimental hash, but whenever Zwick catches the rhythm of one mood, he skips the needle to try on another one. This broadness is like a stake to the heart of the film's hard-earned but fast-lost authenticity. (12/03/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Barton Creek Square

MEGAMIND D: Tom McGrath; with the voices of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill, Brad Pitt, David Cross. (PG, 95 min.)

The DreamWorks Animation team devotes its extraordinary attention to 3-D visual detail in *Megamind* – most commonly to the illustration of such mayhem as death rays vaporizing steel and whole buildings turning to rubble. It's a lot of Sturm und Drang that quickly grows repetitive; I'd trade 90% of the action for a few more of those tight close-ups of blue-hued Megamind (voiced by Ferrell). Megamind is a self-professed supervillain, an alien who was orphaned young and crafted an identity in counterpoint to another founding who fell to Metro City, USA, on the same day – the buff, boffo Metro Man (voiced by Pitt). But what's a big baddie to do when his nemesis and prime motivator takes an extended vacation? *Megamind* gets existential, but only in blips, and while it is never anything less than vibrant and exceedingly clever, it is also a rather slight thing for such mega-sized proportions. (11/05/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

127 HOURS D: Danny Boyle; with James Franco, Kate Mara, Amber Tamblyn, Treat Williams, Kate Burton, John Lawrence. (R, 94 min.)

Calm, cool, and tear-your-hair-out exciting, *127 Hours* is an archetypal tale of man vs. nature vs. himself. Danny Boyle adapts Aron Ralston's "trapped in the wilderness" memoir with gripping aplomb. Ralston, after a morning of mountain-biking and cavorting in underground swimming holes with a pair of newbie female hikers (Tamblyn and Mara), falls from nature's grace and lands in a horrific situation: His arm is crushed and unable to be freed, he's low on water, and absolutely no one is aware of his plight. It's a bad trip in every sense of the phrase. *127 Hours* is an unrelenting tour de force but it's also an unforgettable examination of the human spirit under extreme duress. The fact that Franco gives the performance of his career is the icing on the cake. Fair warning, oh squeamish ones: *127 Hours* does not shy away from Ralston's ultimate method of obtaining egress from his predicament. Which is exactly as it should be. (11/19/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Metropolitan

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2

D: Tod Williams; with Brian Boland, Sprague Grayden, Molly Ephraim, Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Vivis. (R, 91 min.)

Believe the hype: *Paranormal Activity 2* is exactly what you think or hope it is. I loathed the first film, but its cheap shocks and wait ... wait ... wait ... gotchas were a box-office cash machine. *Paranormal Activity 2* is something of a prequel to Oren Peli's initial film. But, most importantly, does it scare the hell out of you? Well, yes, it does. As it turns out, the new pair of victims, Kristi and Dan (Grayden and Boland), are related to the previous couple by blood ties. Plus, they have a child and a German shepherd in tow. The entire production is faux cinema verité, captured remarkably via security apparatus and nanny cam. That's the pitch, really: Supernatural stuff happens, and the audience gets to view it in edited real time. Granted, this inevitable follow-up is considerably spookier than its predecessor, but only in terms of the amount of jump-out-of-your-seatiness. It's not hell, but it's close. (10/29/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South



Head

Head (1968) D: Bob Rafelson; with Peter Tork, Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Annette Funicello, Timothy Carey. (G, 86 min.) **Music Monday.** The Monkees overstepped in a most fascinating manner during their jump from the little screen to the big. Rafelson and co-conceptualist Nicholson did for the Monkees what Richard Lester did for the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*, creating a wacked-out, aimless universe that constantly riffs on popular culture. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 9:45pm.

RARE EXPORTS:

A CHRISTMAS TALE D: Jalmari Helander; with Onni Tommila, Jorma Tommila, Ilmari Järvenpää, Peeter Jakob. (R, 80 min., subtitled)

If you're sick and tired of the saccharine explosion of treacly holiday fare, then you could do far worse than this year's Fantastic Fest horror favorite, *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*. Set in the icy north of Finland, this dark gem depicts the travails of a tiny community forced into battle against a resurrected ur-Santa, complete with goatlike horns, cloven hoofs, and a legion of scrawny, naked "elves." Creepy, no? Director Helander barely scratches the surface of one hell of an idea, but what this *Christmas Tale* does, it does with wild abandon. When a multinational corporation begins taking samples from the peak of Korvatunturi mountain, beneath which 11-year-old Pietari (Onni Tommila) and his father live, odd things begin to happen. Clutching his favorite stuffed animal and trusty shotgun, Pietari hits the books and uncovers the truth about Santa. Jolly is not in this crimson nightmare's repertoire, and all that jazz with presents? Totally inaccurate. (12/10/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

RED D: Robert Schwentke; with Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Karl Urban, Rebecca Pidgeon, Ernest Borgnine, Brian Cox, Richard Dreyfuss. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Proof that the artistic collision between the aging baby boomers and their comic book-obsessed progeny makes for some strange, but entertaining, bedfellows, *Red* features four leads with a combined age of 257 – add the grand, Methuselean Borgnine and you get a round 350 – who alternate between waxing eloquent on the ephemerality of youth and resuscitating said salad days by blowing shit up real good. Yee-haw! Willis plays a retired CIA badass named Frank Moses who, when the Agency decides to clean out the old guard, is forced to round up his Cold War "associates" – Freeman's rest-home-residing Joe, Cox's bearish ex-Soviet Ivan, Malkovich's paranoid comic foil Marvin, and the elegant Mirren as ex-MI6 operative Victoria. *Red* is, at its heart, a rom-com, guns 'n' bombs mash-up that poses serious questions about the role of the aged in a youth-mad, globalized system and then answers them with a smirk and a whole lot of terrifically choreographed action set-pieces. (10/15/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Movies 8

SAW 3D D: Kevin Greutert; with Tobin Bell, Sean Patrick Flanery, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell, Cary Elwes, Chad Donella. (R, 91 min.)

Saw 3D has the desperate air of a doomed series that has outlived its marketability, its now near-incomprehensible backstory, and its core audience. Returning director Greutert just doesn't seem to have the heart for it anymore. Mandylor returns as Detective Hoffman, the maniac cop who is carrying on the horrific work of Jigsaw. This time he's out to get Bobby (Flanery), a hack author-cum-huckster who's made the fatal mistake of announcing that he's a survivor of one of Jigsaw's punitive ordeals. Fans of the series, if there are any left and I'm not too certain that there are, will enjoy the usual smorgasbord of intestines spilling out from the screen and onto their laps (via the profoundly crappy 3-D) as well as an opening slaughter involving several buzz saws and a crowd of gawking onlookers. But, really, is that so different from Austin's Sixth Street on any given weekend? I think not. R.I.P., Jigsaw. Stay dead. (11/05/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

SECRETARIAT D: Randall Wallace; with Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh, Dylan Baker, Margo Martindale, Nelsan Ellis, Otto Thorwarth, Fred Dalton Thompson, James Cromwell, Scott Glenn, Amanda Michalka, Kevin Connolly, Eric Lange. (PG, 122 min.)

Saddle up for some old-fashioned inspirational movie entertainment as Disney mounts the story of horse-racing's 1973 Triple Crown winner. Actually, the focus of the movie is not really the horse but the people who owned and trained him and shared with him the will to succeed. How do we know the animal had a will to succeed? Because owner Penny Chenery Tweedy (Lane) stares into his eyes and channels his desires. The outcome of Secretariat's story is already part of our popular knowledge prior to any film treatment of the events, thus allowing the movie to focus on the characters' journeys rather than their finish lines. Thus, *Secretariat* is more a story of Mrs. Tweedy. Drafted to her side are the eccentric trainer Lucien Lauren (a restrained Malkovich), groom Eddie Sweat (Ellis), and jockey Ron Turcotte (real-life jockey Thorwarth). Some audiences will cheer as though they were at the track, but *Secretariat* is ultimately a conventional story, conventionally told. (10/08/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Movies 8

THE SOCIAL NETWORK D: David Fincher; with Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Armie Hammer, Rooney Mara, Max Minghella, Joseph Mazzello, Rashida Jones. (PG-13, 121 min.)

Fincher's blisteringly entertaining *The Social Network* touches down in the calm before the storm, before social media rewrote the rules on how information moves. We first meet the eventual founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg (Eisenberg), in a bar, having drinks with his girlfriend (Mara). He is callous, socially inept, and ravenously ambitious – the boy who would be king, not yet fixed on what the kingdom will look like. *The Social Network* cuts with ease from flashbacks of Zuckerberg's undergraduate days to depositions related to two concurrent lawsuits brought against him. Although the legal proceedings provide a handy framework for the film, who did what to whom, when, and with how much premeditated bloodlust is of ancillary concern to the film's layered examination of an asshole. (That's the filmmakers' word, not mine.) History as we know it is still unfurling, and *The Social Network* is that rare film that has something – not yet definitive but certainly provocative – to say about it. (10/01/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Arbor, Metropolitan

TANGLED D: Nathan Greno, Byron Howard; with the voices of Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Ron Perlman, M.C. Gainey, Jeffrey Tambor, Brad Garrett. (PG, 92 min.)

The venerable Disney animators have climbed aboard both the CGI and 3-D bandwagons for their latest holiday release, which reworks the Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Rapunzel*. The classic hallmarks of Disney animation are all here: stunning attention to the details of nature and the inclusion of an evil mother figure as a trigger for the storyline. Rapunzel's hair should be listed as one of the story's main charac-

ters, so intrinsic is it to the film's appeal. As voiced by Moore, Rapunzel is a spunky gal, capable of defending herself and singing sturdily. Tony Award-winner Murphy brings stage showmanship to her musical interludes as Mother Gothel, which drip with sarcasm and biting wit. The songs by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater are fun but unmemorable, however. Even though the sight of Rapunzel's shimmering hair and scenes of flickering lanterns across the skyline are visual wonders, the biggest reactions to the animation seemed to come from scenes of classic physical comedy. (11/26/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE TOURIST D: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck; with Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie, Paul Bettany, Timothy Dalton, Steven Berkoff, Rufus Sewell. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Interpol wants to catch a thief, namely Alexander Pearce, who has stolen more than \$2 billion. For some reason, these top cops have no idea what their suspect looks like, so they spend two years watching his girlfriend, Elise (Jolie). Their efforts pay off once she receives a note delivered by courier instructing her to catch the next train to Venice and pick a man of Alexander's general height and build to serve as an unwitting decoy. And that stranger on a train? He turns out to be none other than Johnny Depp, in the role of Frank Tupelo, a widowed math teacher from Wisconsin. This film obviously strives for a Hitchcockian vibe of romance and suspense. True, many twists and turns occur. Nevertheless, *The Tourist* doesn't generate much suspense or intrigue. Von Donnersmarck's direction is dull and flat. Without sizzle or thrills, *The Tourist* becomes as sluggish and rank as the Venice waterways. (12/17/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

TRON: LEGACY D: Joseph Kosinski; with Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund, Olivia Wilde, Bruce Boxleitner, Michael Sheen, James Frain, Anís Cheurfa. (PG, 125 min.)

There's absolutely no shortage of stunning eye candy in this spiffy, sexy, and frequently thrilling sequel to Disney's 1982 game-changer *Tron*. There is, however, a certain lack of connectivity between the digitally enhanced characters onscreen and the audience. Debuting director Kosinski has created a virtual world that's seamless and immersive. Here, the grid – that sleek inner world of the game – is all crystalline club life and roaring, tempestuous crowds craving gladiatorial blood(less)sport. *Legacy* finds Flynn's Ducati-riding offspring, Sam (Hedlund), sucked into the game this time around. The grid is no longer the utopian ideal Flynn imagined it could



Doña Perfecta

Doña Perfecta (1951) D: Alejandro Galindo; with Dolores del Río, Esther Fernández, Carlos Navarro, Julio Villarreal. (NR, 115 min.) **Austin Parks & Recreation: Cine de Oro.** Del Río stars in this film adaptation of the 19th century novel by Benito Pérez Galdós, which examines the political changes in Mexico through the experiences of one family. @MACC, Tuesday, 7pm; free.

be. Instead, his digital doppelganger, Clu (Bridges again), has taken control and is plotting escape into the real world. It's still a soulless machine for making Disney mountains of cash, of course, but you can feel it striving to be more. Which is, at the end of the game, what singularity is all about. (12/17/2010) — Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

UNSTOPPABLE D: Tony Scott; with Denzel Washington, Chris Pine, Rosario Dawson, Ethan Suplee, Kevin Dunn, Kevin Corrigan, Lew Temple, Jessy Schram. (PG-13, 98 min.)

Unstoppable is a lot like speed. Not the movie, the amphetamine. It's manic and wearily predictable, and as soon as it begins, you know exactly how it's going to end: with a hard, fast crash (and the requisite yakkety epilogue). Oh, but what a fun pitch meeting it must have been: "There's this unmanned train, see, powered up at full throttle, see, and it's headed toward population! And Denzel Washington plays a heroic motorman who recently lost his wife to cancer! And that new Captain Kirk guy's the rookie conductor, and he has a broken heart! How can it miss?!" How indeed? *Unstoppable* is interminable, especially for connoisseurs of the action spectacle. They will recall with fondness such far better films as *Runaway Train* or even *Von Ryan's*

Express. Director Scott tosses the occasional foreign object onto the track from time to time, but in the end *Unstoppable* is derailed by its own one-track premise. (11/19/2010) — Marc Savlov
★★ Millennium

YOGI BEAR D: Eric Brevig; with Anna Faris, Tom Cavanagh, T.J. Miller, Andrew Daly, Nathan Corrdry; with the voices of Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake. (PG, 80 min.)

Yogi Bear is unbearable. Maybe I'm out of touch, but I don't recall hearing a hue and cry for a revival of Hanna-Barbera's ursine star Yogi Bear and his sidekick, Boo Boo. Nevertheless, the stars of *The Yogi Bear Show*, which ran on TV in the early Sixties, have clawed their way onto the silver screen. Yogi (voiced by Aykroyd) still lives in Jellystone Park and still proclaims himself "smarter than the average bear." Aided by Boo Boo (voiced by Timberlake), he devises elaborate plots to separate park visitors from their "pic-nic" baskets. The talking bear makes life difficult for Ranger Smith (Cavanagh) but is one of the lures that brings documentary filmmaker Rachel (Faris) to the park to shoot a film. When the corrupt local mayor (Daly) decides to sell Jellystone's logging rights, the bears and humans join forces to obstruct the sale. Only the youngest, most undiscerning viewers will want to decamp to Jellystone. (12/17/2010) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

THURSDAY 23

Brew Masters TV at the Alamo.
@Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack.
Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Elf Quote-Along (2003) D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. (PG, 95 min.) **Action Pack.** Sold-out. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Home Alone (1990) D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.) **Family Fun.** Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10:45am.

Horror Remix: You'd Better Watch Out!
The remix features three lousy holiday slashers in two hours by slicing out the boring stuff and keeping the basic plot, gore, and cheese. This remix dices *Iced* (1988), *Christmas Evil* (1980), and *Silent Night, Deadly Night: Part 2* (1987). @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm.

NBC Thursdays TV at the Alamo.
@Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

Ragada (2010) D: Veeru Potla; with Nagarjuna Akkineni, Anushka Shetty, Priyamani. (NR, 145 min.) This Telegu-language film mixes action and romance. (*) @Tinseltown South, 3:05, 6:35, 9:50pm.

SPACES

Die Hard (1988) D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Because It's That Time of Year.** Classic TV at the Drive-In begins at 6:30pm. (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm.

FRIDAY 24

Ragada (2010) @Tinseltown South, 2, 4:50, 7:45pm. (See Thursday, 12/23.)

SPACES

Silent Night, Deadly Night Marathon
Because It's That Time of Year. Five movies will screen. See "Horror for the Holidays," p.37, for more about the event and www.starlite.artfilmfood.com for reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 6pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 7 issue is Monday, Dec. 27.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

SATURDAY 25

Elf Quote-Along (2003) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/23.)

Gremlins (1984) D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton, Frances Lee McCain, Polly Holiday, Dick Miller, Judge Reinhold, Corey Feldman; with the voices of Howie Mandel. (PG, 106 min.) **Family Fun.** It's suburban splatter mixed with humor and in-jokes when a teenager's furry little pet of mysterious origins spawns a whole town-full of snaggle-toothed, killer gremlins. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11:25am; free.

SUNDAY 26

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) D: Terry Gilliam; with Johnny Depp, Benicio Del Toro, Gary Busey, Christina Ricci, Cameron Diaz, Ellen Barkin, Tobey Maguire, Michael Jeter. (R, 119 min.) **High for the Holidays.** The legend of the gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson abides in Depp's performance. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 6:45pm.

Gremlins (1984) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11:25am; free. (See Saturday.)

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon
D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Margaret Hamilton. (G, 101 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Test those rumors you've heard about the synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm.

SPACES

Dexter Watch Party @Jo's (Downtown), 8pm; Free.



Gremlins

MONDAY 27

Head (1968) See p.62.

Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Sunday.)

SPACES

The Brady Bunch Movie D: Betty Thomas; with Gary Cole, Shelley Long, Michael McKean, Jean Smart. **I Luv Video Presents.** Classic TV at the Drive-In begins at 6:30pm (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm.

TUESDAY 28

Creepshow (1982) D: George A. Romero; with Hal Holbrook, Adrienne Barbeau, Fritz Weaver, Leslie Nielsen, Carrie Nye, E.G. Marshall, Viveca Lindfors, Ed Harris, Ted Danson, Stephen King. (R, 120 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** E.C. Comics inspired this anthology of five classic horror tales, which were written by Stephen King. @Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Sunday.)

Glee TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm.

Gremlins (1984) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11:25am; free. (See Saturday.)

SPACES

Doña Perfecta (1951) See p.62.

WEDNESDAY 29

The Tale of the Dean's Wife (1969)
D: Benjamin Onivas; with Christine Murray, Jim Gentry, Mark Edwards. (X) **Weird Wednesday.** Student-faculty relations are improved through psychedelic sex orgies. @Alamo Ritz, 12:30am.

The Holy Mountain (1973) See p.60.

Valley of the Dolls (1967) D: Mark Robson; with Patty Duke, Barbara Perkins, Sharon Tate, Susan Hayward, Lee Grant, Joey Bishop, George Jessel. (NR, 123 min.) **Celluloid Handbag.** Jacqueline Susann's dishy doll dross translates to the screen with deliciously camp excess. Rebecca Havemeyer hosts. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971) See p.60.

U Pana Boga za Piecem (As Snug as a Bug in the Rug) (1998) D: Jacek Bromski; with Ira Laczina, Jan Wiczorkowski, Krzysztof Dzierma, Andrzej Zaborski. (NR, 100 min.) **Austin Public Library: Polish Cinema Series.** In this comedy of manners, a rural town in eastern Poland is seen through the eyes of a Russian woman. @Howson Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

THURSDAY **30**

NBC Thursdays @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm. (See Thursday, 12/23.)

The Sing-Along Mix Tape Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm.

Super Troopers Quote-Along (2002)

D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter. (R, 100 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

New Year's Triple Feature *Spies Like Us* (6pm), *Funny Farm* (8pm), *Trading Places* (10pm). All three movies for one ticket. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 6pm.



Tron: Legacy

imax

Hubble 3D (2010) D: Toni Myers; narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. (NR, 45 min.) This breathtaking documentary follows NASA's May 2009 mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. (*) Thu. (12/23)-Sat., 11:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/30), 11:30am.

Legends of Flight (2010) D: Stephen Low. (NR, 42 min.) One hundred years of aviation history are explored in this 3-D film, which also looks to the future of commercial airline travel. Thu. (12/23)-Thu. (12/30), 10:30am.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of producing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/23)-Sat., 9:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/30), 9:30am.

Tron: Legacy (2010) D: Joseph Kosinski; with Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund, Olivia Wilde, Bruce Boxleitner, Michael Sheen, James Frain, Anis Cheurfa. (PG, 125 min.) See review, p.62. (*) Thu. (12/23)-Thu. (12/30), 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:30pm.

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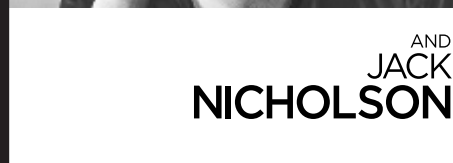
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music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Hayes Carll

Antone's, Wednesday 29
Bobby Bare Jr. opens.

Hayes Carll ain't kickin' round Crystal Beach anymore. The local songwriter's fourth album, *KMAG YOYO*, due February via Lost Highway, follows up on

the promise of 2008's *Trouble in Mind* and could cast Carll among the next generation of Texas exports. With his balance of wry humor and honest balladry, *KMAG YOYO* ("Kiss My Ass Guys, You're On Your Own"), expands Carll's outlook both beyond himself and the Third Coast bars where he paid his dues.

"A lot of my stuff in the past has been really autobiographical and learning about myself, and some of that stuff still is on *KMAG*," offers Carll, "but I wanted to get outside my own box a little bit and write about what other people were seeing and feeling. A lot of people are in bad shape and having a tough time, and I wanted to try to capture people's experiences and not take sides."

KMAG proves as torn as the contemporary American landscape, and Carll revels in the ambiva-

lence. Shifting between romps like the title cut and "Stomp and Holler," the beautifully tortured "Chances Are," and culture-clash duet with Cary Ann Hearst, "Another Like You," Carll crafts an album that taps the zeitgeist without succumbing to it.

"It's not really my strength to try and change people's minds by lecturing them," he notes. "I still want it to be fun and listenable and don't want people to tune out. I think you lose half the potential effect that you can have because half the people going in aren't going to give it a chance if they disagree with you politically. If you can just put things in a way that they're willing to listen to and let them think about it on their own, it's sometimes even more effective." — Doug Freeman

IT'S CHRISTMAS! Friday 24 & Saturday 25

In town and going out of your mind? Christmas Eve at Beerland offers Metal Up Your Chimney, a hardcore DJ night and chance to unload some holiday cheer via fist pumps and head bangs. "Drunk Santa" will also be making an appearance, although he may end up sitting on *your* lap. Christmas night, country music vet Dale Watson's annual Christmas Show & Dance at the Continental Club is always a good excuse to gussy up and scoot out, while funk-soul sister LZ Love shakes walls at the Saxon Pub. Naughty? Nice. — Audra Schroeder

WOMEN'S SHOW Antone's, Monday 27

The weather's been too mercurial to write about cozy nights lazing before the fireplace, but this bill, featuring some of Clifford Antone's favorite women, will warm hearts with hometown Hill Country singer-songwriter Shelley King, ever-wonderful pianist Marcia Ball, and Kathy Valentine's kickass BlueBonnets. In addition to the headliners, Patricia Vonne, Sarah Brown, Cindy Cashdollar, and more keep rocking around that Christmas tree, even after the presents have been plugged in and/or downloaded. — Margaret Moser

RAD BROMANCE Emo's, Tuesday 28

In our pop culture hamster wheel, Philly's all-male Lady Gaga cover band knows its time is now, taking Gaga worship to its logical conclusion. While not as exciting as seeing the fame monster in person (you'll have to wait until April at the Erwin Center for that), the man-on-man love her music inspires will be spraying all over your poker face. Knifight and Ode to Oscillator open. — Audra Schroeder

THE FABULOUS GINN SISTERS Saxon Pub, Tuesday 28

You Can't Take a Bad Girl Home is the title of the Fabulous Ginn Sisters' third album, but the caution is strictly for neo-noir grins: You'll want to buy everything they've recorded. The sisters from Schulenburg still do things their own way (one lives in an RV), and there's no compromising their Southern country-folk roots, on disc or in person. Bad girls welcome, too. — Margaret Moser

MAGIC JEWELS, MERMAID BLONDE Mohawk, Wednesday 29

Tonight, a Bermuda Triangle of Texas-sized sounds. Austin guitar/drum duo Magic Jewels rips guts out with its instrumental thrash racket, along with the local lo-fi pop of Mermaid Blonde. The power-punk of Corpus Christi's Slugbug pops open the festivities. — Audra Schroeder

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

WARREN HOOD & THE GOODS Saxon Pub, Friday 24

A fiddlin' good time, plus appearances from Marcia Ball and Nakia.

ROGER CREAGER BAND'S DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS BASH Antone's, Sunday 26

Pure Texas country for your holiday hangover.

ALIENS

Emo's, Monday 27

Former locals bash skulls on "The in Side."

A GIANT DOG

Beerland, Tuesday 28

Join the rock & roll circus, with Cy Barkley, the Stuffies, and the Main Coons.

THE INHERITANCE, DARK WATER HYMNAL

The Ghost Room, Wednesday 29

Old timey strings meet baptismal folk. Warren Jackson Hearne opens.

MIKE MARTIN Y LOS ROOTSTICKS

Flamingo Cantina, Thursday 30

Warm up with roots reggae from Puerto Rico. Cinco Doce headlines.

UNMOTHERED

Red Eyed Fly, Thursday 30

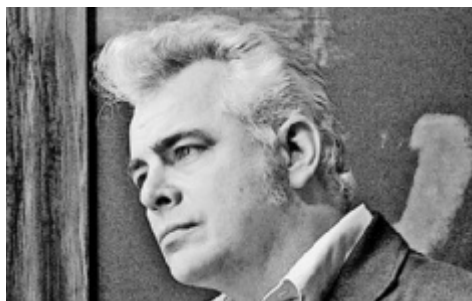
Ex-Lions of Tsavo continue gnawing at the bone, plus Lacerated Souls, Procession of Aeons, I Deal Suicide, and A City for the Taking.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE?

Here comes the jackpot question in advance. Dec. 31 falls on a Friday this year, which means a little extra planning can help navigate the Downtown partyscape. The sure bets are all local, a testament to the talent Austin unloaded in 2010. Test the waters with: the **Sword** at Mohawk, **Foot Patrol** bowing down to mentors Prince and Michael Jackson at the ND at 501 Studios, **Grupo Fantasma** and **Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybees** serving up Latin and funk at La Zona Rosa, **White Denim** throwing tempo tantrums at Emo's, or Cheer Up Charlie's weirdo roundup of the **Sour Notes**, **Follow That Bird!**, **Bodytronix**, **Zorch**, **No Mas Bodas**, and others. Visit Community Listings, p.48, for more. — Audra Schroeder

live music venues p.68

roadshows + club listings p.70



L - R: DALE WATSON (SAT., 12/25) | SHELLEY KING (MON., 12/27) | A GIANT DOG (TUE., 12/28) | THE FABULOUS GINN SISTERS (TUE., 12/28)

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a selection of top shelf margaritas for \$5

HUMPDAY SPECIAL:
all day happy hour
(excludes free karaoke)

TEXAS THURSDAY:
all local pints \$2.50

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Just a reminder that The Highball will be closed
December 24th and 25th for the holidays.
We'll be open again Sunday, the 26th!

TEXAS MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE
The TXMPA monthly mixer featuring industry
guests with peeks at their upcoming projects.
Sunday, Dec 16, 5-7pm, Free

NEW YEARS EVE AT THE HIGHBALL
Pre fixe dinner & The Copa Kings at 7pm,
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The Action Pack until bar close!
Friday, Dec 31, 7pm or 10pm, pricing varies

more events and info online at
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ON THE MAIN STAGE**

DJ TAKTIK ON THE DECK

FRIDAY 12/24

**COME JOIN US ON
CHRISTMAS EVE
FOR GREAT DRINK SPECIALS!**

SATURDAY 12/25

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

SUNDAY 12/26

BLUES LEGEND

**ALAN HAYNES
ON THE MAIN STAGE**

MONDAY 12/27

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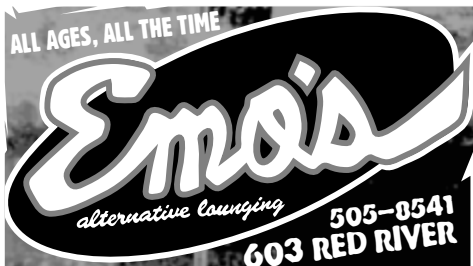
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WEDNESDAY 12/22

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

INSIDE:

**FLASH BOYS • NEGATIVES
THE STRANGE ATTRACTORS
TEMPO TANTRUMS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

**KWANZAA BINGO 7-??PM
W/ SCREENING OF BLACK SANTA'S REVENGE**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

**ASL SWINGERS BATTING CAGE
5-10PM**

INSIDE:

ALIENS • DISTANCE RUNNER • *67

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

INSIDE:

**RAD BROMANCE
(ALL MALE LADY GAGA TRIBUTE BAND)
KNIGHT • ODE TO OSCILLATOR**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

OUTSIDE:

100 MONKEYS • KISSING CLUB

INSIDE: NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW

**WHITE DENIM • DRIZZTIAN
SWAMPER • JOHN WESLEY COLEMAN**

**JANUARY 1-8
FREE WEEK**

GO TO **EMOSAUSTIN.COM** FOR LINEUP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

INSIDE:

**CROOKS
WESTERN GHOST HOUSE • BLACK BOOKS**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

INSIDE:

**THE BLIND PETS
JESUS CHRIST SUPERFLY
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS • THE RIOT SCENE**

OUTSIDE: **SET AFLAME • LIONS OF TSAVO
FALSETTA • THE BRIGADE • LET THE DEAD**

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

INSIDE: **WILD AMERICA (FINAL SHOW)**

**TENEMENT (APPLETON, WI)
WOMEN IN PRISON • UPPERS • SERIOUS TRACERS**

OUTSIDE: **PACK OF WOLVES
EAGLE CLAW • TIA CARRERA • SCORPION CHILD
HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS • BLACK EARTH**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

INSIDE:

**WOODGRAIN
WE'LL GO MACHETTE • WATCHING THE MOON
COME AND TAKE IT • HALF MILE FOX FUR**

OUTSIDE: **ASL SWINGERS HAPPY HOUR 5-9PM**

COMING SOON: 1/21/11 UNDERATH, THURSDAY, A SKYLIT DRIVE, ANIMALS AS LEADERS (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/23/11 AUTHORITY ZERO, PLATFOOT 56, LIONIZE, ATHEL (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/25/11 BEST COAST, WAVES WITH NO JOY (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/26/11 AGAINST ME! WITH CHEAP GIRLS, FENCES (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/27/11 NECRO - THE KING OF DEATH RAP, DIRTY WOMX (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/30/11 101X PRESENTS BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: SCOTTY DONT, FULL SERVICE (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/2/11 FREE ENERGY (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/3/11 DARWIN DEEZ WITH FRIENDS (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/7/11 SMITH WESTERNS W/ YUCK (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/9/11 PASSAFIRE W/ SINIZEN (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/11/11 MAX BENIS (SAY ANYTHING), DIGNAN (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/14/11 THE D.R.I. (DIRTY ROTTEN IMBECELS), DEATH ANGEL, LAZARUS AD, EARLY MAN, BONDED BY BLOOD, HEKEN • 2/15/11 NOBUNNY (IN) • 2/18/11 101X PRESENTS TAPES 'N TAPES WITH OBERHOFFER (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/19/11 101X PRESENTS SEBADOH WITH QUASI (OUT, TX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/22/11 LUCERO (OUT) • 2/28/11 ELEPHANT 6 HOLIDAY SURPRISE TOUR (IN, TX @ C3concerts.com)

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

OUTSIDE:

**QUIET COMPANY
THE BOXING LESSON • SMOKE & FEATHERS
MY EDUCATION • RED LEAVES**

INSIDE:

**A GIANT DOG
SHAPES HAVE FANGS • ELVIS
RAYON BEACH • FLESHLIGHTS**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

OUTSIDE:

**RINGO DEATHSTARR
THE CARROTS • THE UGLY BEATS • HI-TONES**

INSIDE:

**YELLOW FEVER • MISSIONS
SPELLS • SILENT DIANE**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

OUTSIDE: SOUNDCHECK PRESENTS

**WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
THE LEMURS
OVENBIRDS • THE AUTHORS • SALESMAN**

INSIDE:

**LOS SKARNALES
NICK CURRAN & THE LOWLIFES
JUNGLE ROCKERS • EL PATHOS**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

OUTSIDE:

**CRACK PIPES
JOHN WESLEY COLEMAN • OBN III'S
THE STUFFIES • HATCHET WOUND**

INSIDE:

**THE CHUMPS • MOTARDS
ZERO SKILLS • BABY DICK • HOT CRUSH**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

INSIDE:

**THE INFLUENCE • LORD OF THE FLY
ROBERT FORTUNE BAND • SPHYNX**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

ARTIST BOOKING 512 PRESENTS:

**THE JEREMY MILLER BAND • RIP TEENAGERS
AQUA JONES • SHINEY EMPIRE**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

INSIDE:

**A LETTER OF WARNING
SOUND REFRACTION • A SECOND TO LAST
READY THE MESSENGER (CD RELEASE)**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

INSIDE:

**GIRL TALK OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY:
JAVELIN • RUSTY LAZER (BIG FREEDIA'S DJ)**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

OUTSIDE:

**MADBALL • COMEBACK KID
CANCER BATS • CRUEL HAND
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**

INSIDE:

**ROYAL BANGS
NETHERFRIENDS • GEOFF REACHER**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

INSIDE:

**THIS ROMANTIC TRAGEDY
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MOZART SEASON
(FR. SACRAMENTO, EQUAL VISION RECORDS)
KINGDOM OF GIANTS (FR. CA) • THIS TIME NOVEMBER**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

INSIDE:

**BEN BAXTER
SHEER KAHN AND THE SPACE CASE
FIGHT THE QUIET • JUNGLESET • THE BIG DIRTY SHAKEDOWN**

live music venues

THE 512 BAR, 408 E. Sixth, 228-6097

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN, 10401 Anderson Mill, 918-1599

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777

ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146

BAR 141, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 512/558-7399

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907

BB ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335

BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943

BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK

THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR, 422 E. Sixth, 476-1077

BLUE VELVET, 217 W. North Loop, 452-2583

'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339

BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189

THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330

BUDDY'S PLACE, 8619 Burnet Rd., 459-4677

CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515

CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790

CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669

CHAIN DRIVE, 504 Willow, 480-9017

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham St., San Marcos, 512/353-3777

CHEER UP CHARLIE'S, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991

CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666

CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519

CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444

COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002

COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger, 512/859-0700

DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336

THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860

EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770

ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279

ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979

EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541

EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 28-CAJUN

FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172

FAIR BEAN COFFEE, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN

FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646

FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193

G&S LOUNGE, 2420 S. First, 707-8702

THE GHOST ROOM, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak St., 444-4747

GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077

GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688

HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188

THE HIGHBALL, 1142 S. Lamar, 383-8309

HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300

HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe,

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR, 2401 E. Sixth,

476-MAMA

HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL, 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE, 2828 Rio Grande,

382-1570

JOE'S CRAB SHACK, 2401 S. I-35, Round Rock, 512/343-2000

JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825

LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729

LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146

LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500

LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889

THE LION AND ROSE, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., West Lake Hills, 512/335-5466

LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700

MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261

MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326

MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404

MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth #200, 479-8848

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900

MUGSHOTS, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008

MY PLACE BAR & GRILL, 6507 Jester, 346-8228

ND AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001

NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097

NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648

ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121

PALMER EVENTS CENTER, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500

PARADISE CAFE, 401 E. Sixth, 476-5667

THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318

QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET, 5621 Airport, 454-5827

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115

RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100

RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084

RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120

RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132

RIO RITA, 1308 E. Sixth, 524-0384

ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock, 512/218-0813

RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884

SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Alired, 282-0083

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter #400, 288-9994

SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552

SEAHOLM POWER PLANT, 214 West Ave., 477-4747

SENGELMANN HALL, 531 N. Main St., Schulenburg, 979/743-2300

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060

SOUTH FIRST FOOD COURT, 603 W. Live Oak, 796-9212

SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017

STAR BAR, 600 W. Sixth, 477-8550

STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341

T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200

TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445

TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236

TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969

VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057

VINO VINO, 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245

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Benefiting "Families in Need"

Friday
Dec. 31st,
2010
8:30 p.m.

**OPEN BAR
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RAFFLE
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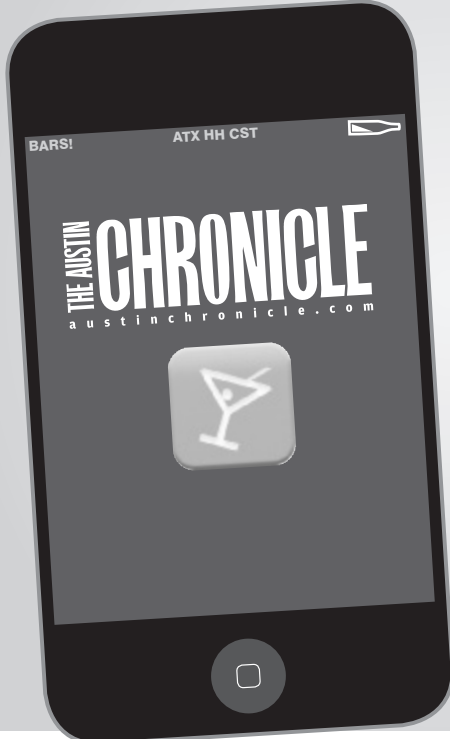
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Complimentary Appetizers 9:30-12a.m.
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club listings

ALL AGES VENUE ROADSHOW RECOMMENDED HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 23

ANTONE'S Brady Black, Randy Rogers (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Harmony Brothers

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Chris Ruest (8:00)

BEERLAND Christmas Formal w/ Roo, In Beds, Bottle Service

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton (6:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Hot Sauce (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cheatham Street All-Stars

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (9:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), the Crooks, Gary Clark Jr. (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Ron Wilkins Quartet (9:30)

EMO'S Tempo Tantrums, the Strange Attractors, the Negatives, Flash Boys

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Wheel (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Susquehanna Hat Company (8:00)

G&S LOUNGE The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Curtis Grimes, Casey Donahew (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Johnny Gimble (6:00)

HEADHUNTERS Grub Dog Variety Show

HOLE IN THE WALL Ricky Stein, the Lonesome Heroes (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Sam Lipman Quartet (7:00), George Macias (8:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE Ray Bonneville, Dimestore Poets (8:00)

JOE'S CRAB SHACK Burnevik Vega (7:00)

JOVITA'S Alice in Chains Tributed (8:00)

LAMBERTS Reed Turner (10:30)

THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Derek Winters (10:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Texcellorators (8:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Hot Club of Cowtown, the Trishas, Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (noon)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jeremy Miller

RED EYED FLY Between the Breaking, For Every Empire, Against the Archaic, Of Forgotten Dreams, Part the Skies/Empty the Seas, Blood of Comrades

RED FEZ Soulution (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mashed Potato Johnson

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00); George Devore, Freddy & Francine, the Leavers (8:00)

STAR BAR Allen Daniels (7:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Orina Raeo, Diving, Nicaragua (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Stephanie Briggs (6:00)

TROPHY'S Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

Z'TEJAS Sweet Bunch of Daisies

FRI 24

THE 512 BAR Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan Haynes (10:30)

roadshows

December

THU 23

Hot Sauce, Cedar Street
Ron Wilkins Quartet, Elephant Room

SAT 25

Frankie Hernandez, South First Food Court

SUN 26

Subterranean Aviator, Red Eyed Fly
Joey Seeman, Rio Rita

MON 27

Aliens, Emo's
Frankie Hernandez, South First Food Court

TUE 28

Rad Bromance, Knifight, Emo's
Capsize, the Parish

WED 29

Bobby Bare Jr., Antone's
Harry Bodine, Evangeline Cafe
Contrabandits, Flamingo Cantina
Cody Canada, Gruene Hall
Knifight, Red 7

THU 30

The Energy, Beerland
Red Alert, Cedar Street

The Back Pockets, Chain Drive
David Halley, Evangeline Cafe
Cinco Doce, Mike Martin y Los Rootsticks, Flamingo Cantina

Procession of Aeons, A City for the Taking, Red Eyed Fly

FRI 31

Cake, Austin Music Hall
100 Monkeys, Emo's
the Blue Flames, Bexar County Bastards, Headhunters
N.A.S.A., Ladytron, Reuben Wu, Seaholm Power Plant

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

NEW YEARS EVE!

GRUPO FANTASMA
AND
BLACK JOE LEWIS
A THE MONEYSBARS
ON-SALE NOW **FRI DEC 31**


JJ GREY & MOFRO
WITH THAT ONE GUY
ON-SALE NOW **FRI JAN 28**


LED ZEPPELIN 2
ON-SALE NOW **SAT JAN 29**


TOKYO POLICE CLUB
WITH SOMEONE STILL LOVES YOU BORIS YELTSIN
ON-SALE NOW **WED FEB 2**

UPCOMING SHOWS
FRI FEB 18: BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
ON-SALE NOW
TICKETS THRU WWW.C3CONCERTS.COM

STUBB'S

WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

IN THE CLUB

FRI DEC 31 DOORS 9PM

T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS
NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW

WITH DJ JJ LOPEZ
TIX INCLUDE BBQ & A CHAMPAGNE TOAST!

THU JAN 6 **FREE WEEK!**

CD RELEASE PARTY

THE LONG TANGLES
FREE CDS TO FIRST 100 IN THE DOOR

FRI JAN 7 **FREE WEEK!**

ART VERSUS INDUSTRY

WITH THE PULSE ELECTRIC
& LAUREN BURTON

SAT JAN 8 **FREE WEEK!**

AUSTIN VIDA PRESENTS:

THE YOUNG MATHS
WITH SOUR SOUL, HYDRA MELODY
& VINYL DHARMA

FRI JAN 14 DOORS 8PM

CORNMEAL

FRI JAN 21 DOORS 9PM

TRASHY THE KID

WITH OAK IS KEEPING,
WAITING FOR AUGUST & THE ANTIC ROMANTICS

SAT JAN 22 DOORS 9PM

LANGUAGE ROOM

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS SAINTS OF VALORY
& IAMDYNAMITE

WED JAN 26 DOORS 8PM

HELLOGOODBYE

THU JAN 27 DOORS 9PM

MANIFESTO

FRI JAN 28 DOORS 9PM

MELISSA McLELLAND
& **LUKE DOUCET**

WITH CHRIS HAWKES

SAT JAN 29 DOORS 9PM

SOUNDS UNDER RADIO

CALENDAR

» OUTSIDE
» INSIDE

2-4 **GUNS OF NAVARONE**
FATBACK CIRCUS
& JAVI GARCIA
AND THE COLD COLD GROUND

2-5 **TINA DICO**

2-18 **CADILLAC SKY**

2-19 **SHE CRAVES**
RADIO FALLOUT,
HOUNDS OF JEZEBEL
& BLACK MAGIC KIT

2-26 **CIVIL TWILIGHT**

3-4 **THE WALKMEN**

3-26 **REBELUTION**
GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD

4-1 **COLD WAR KIDS**

FOR PRIVATE EVENTS
CALL 444-2001



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STUBB'S
& C3CONCERTS.COM



The Trading Post
WINE BAR & GRILL

21814 Hwy. 71 W. 78669
www.TradingPostRestaurant.com
512.428.5727

LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

Tues. 6:30pm
**BILL CARTER &
STEPHEN DOSTER**

Wed. 7:30pm
**KENNY
LUNA**

Thurs. 7:30pm
CIENFUEGOS

Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm
**GARRETT
LEBEAU**

The Trading Post is moving & becoming...



J Five Steakhouse!

Look for us at
21814 Hwy 71 West
Spicewood, Texas 78669

PATIO WINE BAR SEAFOOD STEAKS LIVE MUSIC

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY PRESENTS:

NEW YEARS EVE



DECEMBER 31ST

2010

AT THE SEAHOLM POWER PLANT

214 WEST AVE 78701

FEATURING

LADYTRON DJ SET

N.A.S.A.

AND MORE T.B.A.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW, FOR VIP INFO, AND RESERVED TABLES GO TO:

WWW.NYEAUSTIN.COM

Poodie's Hilltop Roadhouse

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23
JEREMY MILLER BAND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
OPEN AT 4PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
OPEN MIC W/ **MARK ALLAN ATWOOD**

UPCOMING EVENTS:
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH **CAROLYN WONDERLAND** • BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT **POODIE'S**
HWY 71 WEST • 264-0318 • **SPICEWOOD, TEXAS**
FREE Wi-Fi • WWW.POODIES.COM
WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

No Bad Days

DOMESTIC BEER \$2.50
IMPORTED BEER \$3
PITCHERS \$6
BURGERS \$5
\$3 RITAS ALL DAY SAT. & SUN
*EXCEPT ROAD SHOWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 • 9:30PM • \$5

CHARLES WHEAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 & 25
CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 • 6:30PM
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

8106 BRODIE LANE
282-2586

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER 8PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 7PM
HARRY BODINE
COMING THURSDAY, DEC 30 • 7PM • \$5
MATT SMITH W/ DAVID HALLEY & DAVID HAMBURGER

Live Music Early ... Late Night Loungin'

Lucky lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU 12/23 6PM
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING THE LEGENDARY
IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND
LATER @ 10PM: **DEREK WINTERS**

FRI 12/24 9PM
10TH ANNUAL MAZEL BALL

SAT 12/25 8PM
MERRY XMAS!!
WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED WITH YOUR FAMILY, WE OPEN AT 8PM
LATER **DJ SPYDA SPINS 'TILL 2AM**

SUN 12/26 10PM
SOUL KITCHEN

MON 12/27 9PM
JOSH HALVERSON

TUE 12/28 9PM
'GET LUCKY' TUESDAYS
DAN SIR DANCER

WED 12/29 9PM
PARKER AINSWORTH & FRIENDS

THU 12/30 6PM
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING THE LEGENDARY
IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND

FRI 12/31 8PM
\$15 COVER
COUNTDOWN & CHAMPAGNE
TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
CELEBRATE NYE

209A West 5th St. 479-7700
Call us to book your private party!
www.theluckyounge.com www.myspace.com/theluckyounge

HOLE IN THE WALL AUSTIN TEXAS EST. 1974

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 ★ 9 PM
LIL CAP'N TRAVIS
THE 44. LONESOME HEROES
OLDE WORLDE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 ★ 10 PM ★ FREE
JUKEBOX ALL NIGHT!!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 ★ 10 PM ★
18TH ANNUAL KARAOKE CHRISTMAS!!!
W/HOSTS MISS DEBBIE KAY AND RUSTY TRAPPS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 ★ 10 PM ★
CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 ★ 10 PM ★ \$2
MIKE AND THE MOONPIES
JONATHAN TERREL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 ★ 9PM ★
EL PAN
EAST CAMERON FOLKCORE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 ★ 8PM ★
J WESLEY HAYNES TRIO
TIME OUT

COMING SOON: 12/30 SUBROSA UNION

12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE W/ FRANK SMITH AND THE MOTTS, \$10

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/HOLEINTHEWALLAUSTIN

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

BEERLAND Metal Up Your Chimney w/ Drunk Santa

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BUDDY'S PLACE Son Geezinslaw, Glenn Collins (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Charlie Hurtin' & the Hecklers (6:00), Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers (9:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (6:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Chinampa (10:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell (9:30)

ELYSIUM Ghost of Christmas Past w/ DJ Edminister

FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Sean Orr & Texas Gold (9:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Mazel Ball (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Warren Hood, Slim Richey, Texana Dames (noon)

RED EYED FLY Shawn Pike

RED FEZ Matt Creaton, Allen Daniels Band (8:30)

RUTA MAYA Old Gray Mule (6:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Cindy Cashdollar, Warren Hood & the Goods, Marcia Ball (9:00) ☺

STAR BAR Bruce Smith (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers (6:00)

SAT 25

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Gee (3:00), Suzanne Smith (9:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Weldon Henson (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio (10:30); In the Club: Dale Watson's Christmas Show & Dance (10:00) ☺

COTTON CLUB The Debonaires (9:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Red Young (9:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Spyda

SAXON PUB LZ Love (8:00) ☺

SOUTH FIRST FOOD COURT Frankie Hernandez (4:00) ☺

TRIPLE CROWN The Organics, Van Sanchez (10:00)

SUN 26

ANTONE'S Roger Creager's Day After Christmas (9:00) ☺

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Eddie Collins (6:30)

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BEERLAND Silent Night, Deadly Night; Christmas Evil

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Crawlers

BLUE VELVET Fractals (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Instant Martians, Barebones Orchestra (5:00)

CEDAR STREET Soulution (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Sterling Finlay (4:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio (8:30); In the Club: Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00), Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Enlaces Latinos (noon)

ELEPHANT ROOM Black Red Black (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sweet Bunch of Daisies (8:00)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire (5:00), Blues Jam (9:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL The Georges (noon), Ezra Charles (5:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Chicken Strut (3:00)

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR Open Mic (4:00)

HOUSE WINE Doug Anthony (6:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:00)

LAMBERTS Opus de Funk (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Soul Kitchen (10:00)

Happy Hour Daily 6-8p

THU Troy Campbell & The House of Song

SUN Sweet Bunch of Daisies

MON Long Night's Moon w/ Amy Annelle

TUE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory

MON Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones

Flipnotics
COFFEESPACE CAFE
DAILY SPECIALS!

Full Schedule @ Flipnotics.com

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CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE **EGGMEN**

2 GREAT SHOWS!
AT JOVITAS
EARLY SHOW... FAMILY FRIENDLY!!
\$8 ADULTS / \$5 KIDS AT THE DOOR
SHOW STARTS AT 4PM
WE'LL BRING IN THE LONDON NEW YEAR (6PM LOCAL TIME)

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH!!
GEN. ADMISSION \$25 AT THE DOOR
TIX: FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

DOORS @ 7:30PM
OUCH! @ 8:15PM
EGGMEN 9 til 1 AM
WWW.JOVITAS.COM WWW.EGGMEN.COM

FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST

THREADGILL'S South

www.threadgills.com

SUN. 12/26 **Bells of Joy**

11am no cover
We will be open Christmas Day!
(both locations)

WED. 12/20 **Paul Freeman**

7pm no cover
301 W. Riverside Dr. 512.472.9304

THREADGILL'S North

www.threadgills.com

SUN. 12/26 **Hank & Shaidri Alrich**

AND WED. 12/20 Sun @ 11am / Wed @ 7pm no cover

FRI. 12/31 **Jimmy LaFave**

check website or call for details
6416 N. LAMAR BLVD. (512)451.5440



208 W. 4th St. Warehouse District 512-495-9669

THU 12/23 **MUCH LOVE 6-8P**
HOT SAUCE 9:30P

FRI 12/24 **CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE**
SAT 12/25 **CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

SUN 12/26 **SOULUTION 8:30P**

MON 12/27 **JORDAN TANNER 6-8P**

TUES 12/28 **MARK GIBSON 6-8P**
THE INITIALS 9P

WED 12/29 **JOSH AND JASON 6-8P**
THE SPAZMATICS 9:30P

THU 12/30 **MUCH LOVE 6-8P**
RED ALERT 9:30P

NYE PARTY

NYE PARTY WITH PESCHE!

TRENT DURHAM 6-8P DINNER AT PESCHE, THEN
RADIO STAR 9:30P DOWNSTAIRS FOR PARTY,
BALLOON DROP, CHAMPAGNE
TOAST, PRIZES.

cedarstreetaustin.com

Cedar Street

is the perfect venue for the upcoming Holiday Season. To book an event, please contact Amy Dial, Event Planner, at 512-913-3289.

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

GLITTER ART BY **SUE ZOLA**
• THUR SAT & SUN // 10:30PM

MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
SUNDAY 8:30PM
• MON 10:30PM **BRUCE JAMES SOULTET**
9PM **DON HARVEY'S A IS RED**
• TUESDAY // 10:30PM **RED YOUNG & BRANNEN TEMPLE**
• WEDNESDAY // 10:30PM **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
8PM: **JON BLONDELL JAZZ TRIO**

MONDAY DEC 27
HAPPY HOUR **DENNIS LUDIKER TRIO**
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS 10PM
TUESDAY DEC 28
H. H. 6:30PM **TONI PRICE**
12AM **DAX RIGGS**
10PM **THE FAMILY HARVEST**
WEDNESDAY DEC 29
HAPPY HOUR **HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN**
WITH **ERIK HOKKANEN & ELANA JAMES** 12AM
JAMES McMURTRY
CHRIS GATES AND GATESVILLE 10:30PM
THURSDAY DEC 30
H. H. **PLANET CASPER**
Two Hoots AND A HOLLER 12AM
FRIDAY DEC 31
H. H. **THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS** 10PM
THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS 12AM
SATURDAY JAN 1
MATINEE 3-7PM **REDD VOLKAERT**
12AM **BILL CARTER & THE BLAME**
WITH **DENNY CHARLIE, WILL, ANDY & WHIPPER**
10PM **CHARLIE HURTIN & The Hecklers**

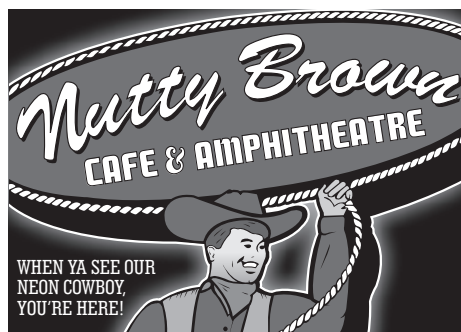
THUR DEC 23
H. H. **PLANET CASPER** 12AM
GARY CLARK JR. 10PM
THE CROOKS 10PM
FRIDAY DEC 24
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
SATURDAY DEC 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS, Y'ALL!
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND DANCE
SUNDAY DEC 26
HEYBALE
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT** AND **EARL POOLE BALL**
HOLIDAY DANCE
DOORS AT 9M SHOW AT 10PM

DOORS @ 9PM

THE PLACE TO BE ON NYE!

COMING SOON

MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA 1/7 **LOU ANN BARTON** 1/8 ADV. TIX ON SALE
ELVIS 2 SHOWS 3PM & 7PM
1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.-FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 6:30PM • 441-2444



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NEON COWBOY,
YOU'RE HERE!

12225 HWY 290 WEST
301-4648 • NUTTYBROWN.COM

Thu FOND KISER
FREE SHOW! • 7:30-11PM

Fri N'AWLINS NITE
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CATFISH
SHRIMP BOIL & FRITTERS, CAJUN ENTREES

Sat Merry Christmas!
CLOSED

Sun LIVE JAZZ BRUNCH
GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE HOUSE & BRING 'EM
TO OUR FABULOUS BRUNCH BUFFET, 10am-2pm!
\$2.50 BLOODY MARYS/MIMOSAS
KIDS PLAY AREA • OAK-SHADED PATIO

RUTAMAYA MUSIC PRESENTS:

JANUARY 06 JACKSON TAYLOR & THE SINNERS



W/ TRACIE LYNN
JEFF HUGHES & CHAPARRAL

JANUARY 07 SCOTT H. BIRAM



TICKETS @ TICKETFLY.COM
MORE INFORMATION &
FULL CALENDAR @
RUTAMAYA.NET

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

MEAN-EYED CAT Lonesome
Dave Fisher (7:30)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi
Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java
Jazz (11:00am)

RED EYED FLY Toys for Guns,
Subterranean Aviator,
Industry of Fear (8)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ
Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic
w/ Glenn Allen

RIO RITA Green Door
Eclectic Record Party
w/ Scotty Upton, Joey
Seeman (10:00) (R)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic
w/ Grant Ewing, Holly
Aiken, Nate Hinds,
Open Mic (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Trés

MON 27

ANTONE'S Cari
Hutson, Eve
Monsees, Kathy
Valentine, Sarah
Brown, Lisa Pankratz,
Shelley King, Marcia
Ball (8:00) (R)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny
Britt (7:30)

BAR 141 Robbie's Open
Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Open Mic (7:00)

**BLUE MOON ROCK &
BLUES BAR** Southside
Ramblers, J.T. Coldfire
(8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline
(9:00)

CEDAR STREET Jordan
Tanner (6:00), Open
Mic w/ Jordan Tanner
(9:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE** Cheatham
Street All-Stars Song
Swap

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco
(6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
A Is Red, Bruce James
Soultet (9:00); In
the Club: Continental
Graffiti (6:30), Dale
Watson & His Lone
Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER
GRILLE** Kris Kimura
Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Freddie
Mendoza (9:30)

EMO'S Aliens (R)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles
Thibodeaux & the
Austin Cajun Aces
(6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Amy Annelle (8:00)

GRUENE HALL James Pardo
(1:00), Bret Graham
(6:00)

THE HIGHBALL Republic of
Texas Big Band (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Mike
& the Moonpies, J.,
Jonathan Terrell (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Singer-
Songwriter Open Mic w/
Scott Andrews (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Josh
Halverson (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Mudslyde
(7:30)

**MOZART'S COFFEE
ROASTERS** John Wilson
(8:00)

MUGSHOTS Acoustic Open
Mic (8:00)

RED EYED FLY Destroyed
for Comfort, J., Panjoma, J.,
Future Process, Guild

RED FEZ DJ Cauze-One &
DJ Taco (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jack
Higginbotham

LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market

THURSDAY, FRIDAY
& SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM

@ CENTRAL PARK
40th and North Lamar
call 512.206.1000 for details

DECEMBER 23, 24, AND 25
NO MUSIC-HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30
ETHAN KENNEDY
americana, soul, rock

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
JEFF LOFTON QUARTET
jazz

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
NO MUSIC-HAPPY NEW YEAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
8pm **BRENNEN LEIGH**
6:30pm **CARPER FAMILY BAND**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
TINY TIN HEARTS
chamber indie pop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
JEFF PLANKENHORN
americana

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
JITTERBUG VIPERS
swing

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
JONAS ALVAREZ
latin

WEDNESDAY -
SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM

@ WESTGATE
4477 South Lamar
call 512.899.4300 for details

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES
\$2 Shiners & BBQ Specials
RECUPERATORS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
DAN DYER
indie soul

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
NO MUSIC-HAPPY NEW YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES
\$2 Shiners & BBQ Specials
MANTECA BEAT blues, soul jazz

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
JESS KLEIN
indie soul pop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
DANNY BROOKS
soul americana

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12
BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES
\$2 Shiners & BBQ Specials
JUSTIN BLACK soul americana

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
PAUL MATTHEWS
afro-cuban

café open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations

**C
O
M
I
N
G**

- 1/27 MONTE MONTGOMERY
- 1/28 GUY FORSYTH
- 1/29 BOB SCHNEIDER & TERRY ALLEN
- 2/4 & 2/5 ROBERT RANDOLPH & THE FAMILY BAND
- 2/10 LISSIE (TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM)
- 2/12 REVEREND HORTON HEAT
- 2/19 GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS W/ JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS (TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM)
- 3/25 G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE (TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM)

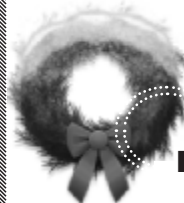


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8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:15PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, DEC 24 **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS - WE WILL BE CLOSED**

SAT, DEC 25 RESTAURANT OPEN AT 5PM
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:30PM **WELDON HENSON**

TUE, DEC 28 **DEBRA PETERS** NO COVER
& **THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP**

WED, DEC 29 6-8PM **LIVE MUSIC**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:15PM **DALE WATSON** LADIES FREE

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Tues 12/28 Sand & Sunnie

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\$3 house margs / 1/2 price apps

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

SOUTH FIRST FOOD COURT
Open Mic w/ Frankie Hernandez (7:00) 6

SPEAKEASY She's Knott Grimey (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Robbie Doyen & James Thompson (6:00), Electric Mayhem (9:00)

VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)

VINO VINO Blue Monday w/ Mike Flanigin (9:00)

TUE 28

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE
Troubadillos (6:00)

ANTONE'S Joe Ely, Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER
The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Suzanne Smith (7:00)

BEERLAND The Main Coons, the Stuffies, Cy Barkley, A Giant Dog 6

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Birdlegg, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lili & Walter, Kim Simpson, Thom the World Poet, Dana McBride (7:00); Andrew Deering (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Mark Gibson (6:00), the Initials (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Red Young & Brannen Temple (10:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Radar Radar, Dax Riggs (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Liz Morphis (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Marcus Graf

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Brannen Temple (9:30)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Ode to Oscillator, Knifight, Rad Bromance (9:00) 6

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallaughier (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Conclusion Jumpers (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Slim Bawb & Gator Bait (1:00)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund

HOLE IN THE WALL El Pan

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL
Jimi Lee

JOVITA'S The Evolution (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Dan Sir Dancer (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Memphis Strange (7:30)

MOHAWK Mike & the Moonpies (5:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan, Dahebegebees (8:00)

PARADISE CAFE Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble (8:00)

THE PARISH Divide, the Illustrations, Capsize (7:00) 6

RED 7 Burning Avalanche, 2 Buck Drunks, Blotter

RED FEZ Bruce Smith (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAXON PUB The Fabulous Ginn Sisters (8:00) 6

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS
Ember (9:00)

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE Lili & Walter (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson (6:00)

VICTORY GRILL East End Jazz Jam (8:00)

VINO VINO Son y No Son (9:00)

WHIP IN Odd Tuesday Open Mic w/ DC Bloom (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Tameca Jones (6:00)

WED 29

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz Blues Jam

ANTONE'S Bobby Bare Jr., Hayes Carl (9:00) 6

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Brooke Avid (10:00)

BEERLAND Hardbodies, Curtis James, Holy Wave

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Jamie Kruger, Clay Compania

BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Clank (8:00)

CEDAR STREET Josh & Jason, the Spazmatics (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Jonathan Horne (8:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB 1808 Bubbleface

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:30); In the Club: Elana James & Erik Hokkanen (6:30); Big Chris Gates & Gatesville, James McMurtry (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00), John Mills (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EVANGELINE CAFE Harry Bodine (7:00) 6

FLAMINGO CANTINA
Contrabandits (9:00) 6

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Warren Jackson Hearne, the Dark Water Hymnal, the Inheritance 6

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robert Banta (9:00)

GRUENE HALL AJ Downing (1:00); Jason Eady, Cody Canada (8:00) 6

HEADHUNTERS Sonic Vomit, Asbestos Tampons

HOLE IN THE WALL J.
Wesley Haynes Trio, Time Out (10:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE
Dennis Ludiker, Jess Klein

JOVITA'S Tex Thomas & the Dangling Wranglers, \$24,000 (6:00)

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00)

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE bMused (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Remember the Alamo (7:30)

MOHAWK Slugbug, Mermaid Blonde, Magic Jewels (10:00) ♪

MY PLACE BAR & GRILL My Place Trio (7:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; Dan K. (8:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Mark Allen Atwood

QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Calico Jazz Trio (6:30)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Knifight, This Party's Lame ♪

RED EYED FLY Stars & Skyline, Final Warning, Eyes Over the Watchtower, Rusty Vein, Motion Planet

RED FEZ Atash ♪ (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Robbie Doyen

RUTA MAYA Amy Annelle (6:00); Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (9:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Words in Red (6:00)

TROPHY'S No Parachute Music Showcase (6:00)

VICTORY GRILL Chitlin Circuit Soul Night w/ DJ Zimmy, the Harringtons (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Jeff Plankenhorn, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 30

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Russell Bros. (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee (8:00)

BEERLAND Suede Uppers, Planets, the Energy ♪

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Tody Castillo, Juke Joint Sandanistas (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Red Alert ♪ (6:00) ♪

CHAIN DRIVE No Mas Bodas, the Back Pockets, Gods Gun, the Carnys CD Release (10:00) ♪

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (9:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Eve & the Exiles, Two Hoots & a Holler (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Melissa Carper & Joe Sundell (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas, Bruce Saunders (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Matt Smith w/ David Halley & David Hamburger (7:00) ♪

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mike Martin y Los Rootsticks, Cinco Doce (9:00) ♪ ♪

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Tusquehanna Hat Company (8:00)

G&S LOUNGE The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Aaron Einhouse (1:00), the Band of Heathens (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Al Dessen (6:30)

HOUSE WINE George Macias (8:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE BettySoo

JOE'S CRAB SHACK Burnevik Vega (7:00)

THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Texcellorators (8:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Erik Larson & Peacemaker ♪ (7:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Lucas Cook, Justin Black & Big Heart ♪ (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Brooks Alan Brannon

RED EYED FLY A City for the Taking, I Deal Suicide, Procession of Aeons, Lacerated Souls, Unmothered ♪ ♪

RED FEZ Soulation ♪ (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Clay Jefferies

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw (6:00), Red Rooster Revue (9:00)

TROPHY'S Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

Z'TEJAS Robert Kelly (6:00)

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NATE VANCEIL NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
MICHAEL ROMERO 6:30 PARKER AINSWORTH 7:45
SHANE PITTSCH & THE SMOKESTACK REVIEW 9
CURTIS MCMURTRY & THOMAS JOHNSON 12
& GODS CHOSEN PEOPLE & THE PEOPLE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24 \$10

SPENCER GIBB 9
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

The **COVERTERS**

W/ SPECIAL GUESTS 10

TABER MAINE 12

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25 \$10

LUNA MATTO 7:45

MEGGAN CARNEY 9

SUZANNA CHOFFEL 10:15

AINJEL EMME & FRIENDS 12:45

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26 \$5

GEORGE TAYLOR 6:45

AUSTIN MAYSE & AUTUMN BOUKADAKIS 8:30

PEACE FIELD 10

TOM MELANCON 12

MONDAY DECEMBER 27 \$5

NANO WHITMAN 6:30 KANUDE 8

MIRANDA DAWN & JACOB JAEGER 9:15

MATTHEW PAYNE 10:30

WILL EVANS 12

TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 \$7 / \$5 W/ STUDENT ID

MICHAELA ANNE 6:30

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BENEFITS CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY

MY EXOTIC OTHER 7:45

LATIN AT HEART 9

KIKO VILLAMIZAR 10:30

AQUA JONES 12

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 \$5

ZACH BALCH 6:45

MALIA LIVOLSI 7:45

STEPHANIE BRIGGS 9

JUSTIN BLACK & BIG HEART 10:15

ULRICH ELLISON NETWORK 12

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GEORGE DEVORE 10PM \$5

the leavers 12AM \$5

Jordann Mitchell 8PM \$5

No COVER HAPPY HOUR EIGHTY SIXXED 6PM

W/ DAVID HOEL, TOMMY SHANNON, & GUESTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 *****

WARREN HOOD

& THE GOODS 9PM \$10

with Marcia Ball, Cindy Cashdollar, Carolyn Wonderland, A. Whitney Brown, Nakia, & More Surprise Special Guests

No COVER HAPPY HOUR THE SIDESHOW FIVE 6PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 *****

CHRISTMAS DAY

LZ Love 10PM \$5

JAMIE THOMAS 12AM \$5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 *****

Joseph King & Drew Nix with Eric Flores 10:30PM \$10

THE RESENTMENTS with Bruce and Scrappy 7:30PM \$7

Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 6PM \$10

Jay Thomas Band 12:30AM \$5

PETERSON BROTHERS 4PM No Cover

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 *****

LONELYLAND

WITH BOB SCHNEIDER 8PM \$10

MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 7PM \$10

Jeff Plankenhorn 11PM \$5

HalleyAnna 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 *****

Kurt BoDean & Wirelence 10PM \$10

Bruce Hughes & the All Nude Army 8PM \$5

PANDULOUS GINN SISTERS 12AM \$5

No COVER HAPPY HOUR LJ & THE EL DORADOS 6PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 *****

BROTHERS OF THE CASTLE

FEATURING MEMBERS OF DEL CASTILLO 9PM \$15

Hadden Sayers Band 11PM \$10

ghosts along the brazos 12:30AM \$5

No COVER HAPPY HOUR The Nortons 6PM

COMING UP

12/30 Carolyn Wonderland

New Year's Eve: Guy Forsyth

1/5 & 1/12 Brothers of the Castle

1/28 Ezra Charles

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6:30 Colin McDonald
7:30 Slim Richie & the Jitterbug Vipers
9:30 Ghosts Along the Brazos

Fri, Dec 24

Friday Night Supper Club
7 Eric Gerber
8-10 Jon Hogan & Maria Moss
10-12 Paul Klemperer's Special Holiday Show

Sat, Dec 25

Closed today
We wish everyone a very special holiday.

Sun, Dec 26

8-10 Brian Hudson

Wed, Dec 29

8-10 SongWriterWeekly.com
10-12 The Saddle

New Years Eve Bash
Jon Hogan & Maria Moss
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10:00 \$5

FRIDAY 12/24
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE
MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

SATURDAY 12/25
KEVIN AND THE KRAWLERS
8:00 NO COVER!
MATT GILES TRIO
10:00 NO COVER!

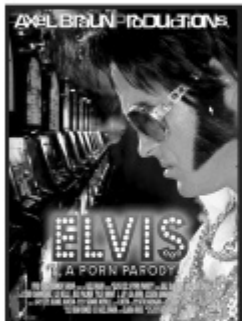
SUNDAY 12/26 8:00
TED HALL'S BLUES CHURCH JAM
NO COVER!

WEDNESDAY 12/29
THE GINN SISTERS
8:00 \$5
DENNIS LUDIKAER'S BLUEGRASS JAM
10-MIDNIGHT \$5

NEW YEAR'S EVE!
FRIDAY 12/31
MIKE KINDRED
MISS LAVELLE WHITE
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\$15 advance / \$20 door
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Double Vision - 12/28
Nikki Benz - Superstar - 12/28
Asian Boobs - 12/28
Barely Legal POV 9 - 12/28
She-Male Superstars 2 - 12/28
A** Extreme Teens - 12/28
Kissing Cousins - 12/28
Street Heat 3 - 12/29
Oil Overload 3 - 12/30
Race Relations 2 - 12/30
Jesse Jane the Roommate - 1/4
I Got A Feeling - 1/4
Blonde Girl Booty Battle 2 - 1/4
Elvis XXX - A Porn Parody - 1/4
Dream Teens - 1/5
Performers of the Year 2011 - 1/7
Monster Meat 19 - 1/7
Hooters Club XXX 4 - 1/8
Lesbian Teenyboppers 3 - 1/8
Bouncing Booties 2 - 1/8
Cheating Wives 12 - 1/8
Monster Mommies 2 - 1/8
Ass Everywhere 5 - 1/11
Sasha Grey Expose - 1/14
Naughty Spanish Maids 2 - 1/17
Dick! It Does A Body Good - 1/18
Winking 101 In Russia 5 - 1/20
Boz vs. Mandingo 3 - 1/20
(Street Dates are Estimated
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Rick Harvey & the
Texcellorators (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Zeale, DJ Mel
BEERLAND Izzy Cox, Karate
Kids, Flametricks Subs

THE BELMONT Hedda Layne
(6:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
& the Pleasant Valley
Boys

CEDAR STREET New Year's
Eve w/ Trent Durham,
Radiostar (6:00)

CHEER UP CHARLIE'S No
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Bodytronix, Missions,
Follow That Bird!, Sour
Notes

CONTINENTAL CLUB The
Blues Specialists
(6:30); Pong, Diamond
Smugglers (10:00)

COTTON CLUB New Year's
Eve w/ Bubba Cox &
the Playboys (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER
GRILLE Mark Goodwin
Trio (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim
Owens Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: Kissing
Club, 100 Monkeys;
Inside: John Wesley
Coleman, Drizztian
Swamper, White Denim
(9:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Old Farts
w/ Cleve & Sweet Mary
(10:00)

FADÓ The Blaggards (9:00)

FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open
Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa
(5:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau
Chaplains, Proper
Villain Soundsystem
(9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Wild Bill & the Lost
Knobs (6:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Kissit
(9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Mark
Alan Band (6:30)

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Riot, Burning Avalanche,
Bexar County Bastards,
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Year's Eve w/ Frank
Smith

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE
Miss Lavelle White w/
Mike Kindred

LA ZONA ROSA Grupo
Fantasma, Black
Joe Lewis & the
Honeybears

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS
Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT New Year's
Eve w/ Lucas Hudgins
& the First Cousins
(9:00)

MOHAWK Eagle Claw,
Mammoth Grinder,
the Sword (8:00);
Tornahdo, Smoke &
Feathers (12mid)

ND AT 501 STUDIOS Foot
Patrol, Prince, Michael
Jackson Tribute w/
Karaoke Apocalypse
(9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Ray Prim
(9:00)

THE PARISH New Year's
Eve w/ L.A.X, Bright
Light Social Hour (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP
ROADHOUSE Carolyn
Wonderland (10:30)

RED FEZ Matt Creaton,
Allen Daniels Band (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN New Year's
Eve w/ Turbo 350, the
Beaumonts

RUTA MAYA Old Gray Mule
(6:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole
Ball & the Cosmic
Americans (6:00), Nakia
& the Blues Grifters,
Guy Forsyth (9:00)

SEAHOLM POWER PLANT
DJ Markus With a K,
Reuben Wu, Ladytron,
N.A.S.A. (9:00)

SENGELMANN HALL New
Year's Eve w/ the Telstars

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS
Capital Suspects (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Matchmaker
Band (9:30)

STUBB'S New Year's Eve
w/ T Bird & the Breaks

TRIPLE CROWN Pepper's
Blues (6:00); Helix,
Muchos Backflips! (10:00)

TROPHY'S Chaparral w/
Jeff Hughes, Roger
Wallace, Two Hoots
& a Holler

UNITED STATES ART

AUTHORITY Glitter's Eve
w/ DJ Sue, Cowabunga
Babes, Bad Lovers, the
Shakewells, Leaders of
the Gang (9:00)

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from recommended acts up
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Holiday Schedule

The *Chronicle* will observe the following holiday schedule:
Issues dated Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will be distributed on their regular weekdays: Thursday, Dec. 23 (today), and Thursday, Dec. 30.

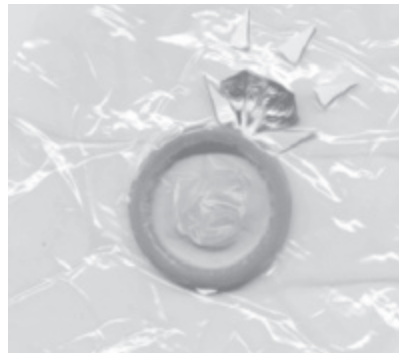
The *Chronicle* offices will be closed Thursdays and Fridays, Dec. 23 & 24 and Dec. 30 & 31.

We will resume regular business hours on Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

Happy holidays to all!

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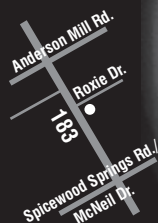
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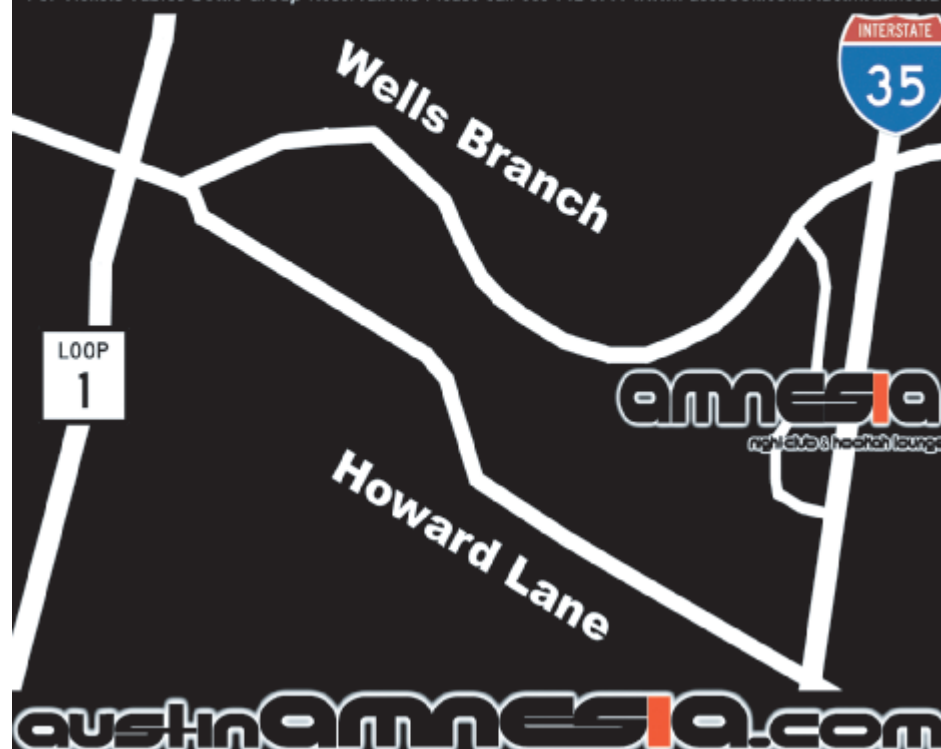
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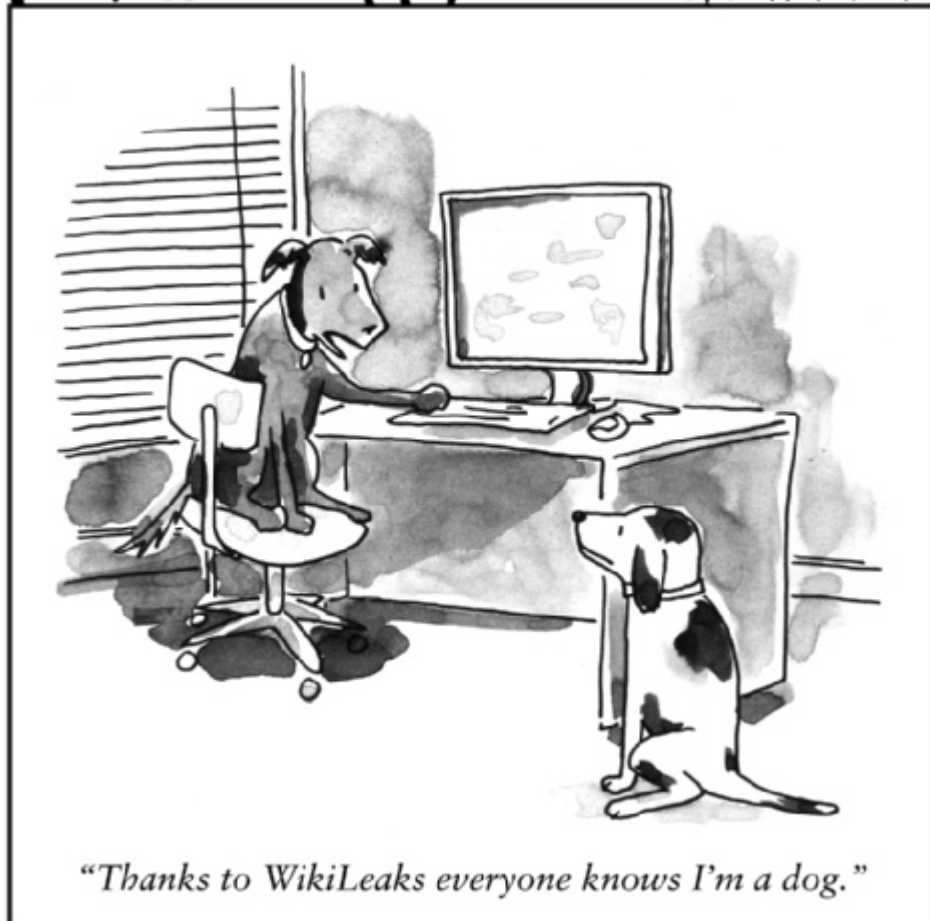
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How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



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TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



After 20 years of trying to make it a business, fuel ethanol from corn can only be sustained through \$6 billion of taxes a year.

They have coyotes in Chicago.

The cost of making an iPhone - about \$179 - is credited to China, even though the China assembly process is only about \$6.50 per phone.

Most Sioux scalped enemies. But Crazy Horse did not take scalps, nor did he tie up his tail before battle with fur, feathers, or colored cloth as other warriors did.

In certain parts of England the term "nog" refers to strong ale. But "noggin" also refers to the filling of gaps or voids in the vacant sections of their roughly hewn timber-frame constructed buildings.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

jobs

art/design

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GAY PLACE

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The Chronicle's queer nexus seeks blog artists to create unique and original, copyright legal art blasts to supplement news stories - sort of like the screens you see behind the anchorperson on a TV newscast. Send art samples along with a resume and cover letter to: **Kate X, gayplace@austinchronicle.com** or **PO Box 49066 Austin TX 78765.**



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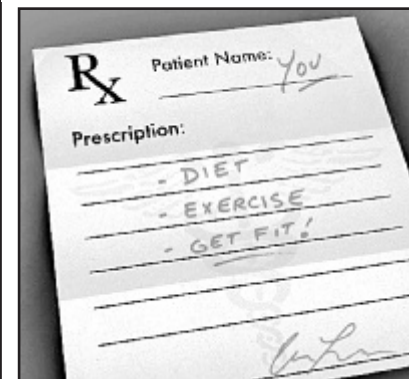
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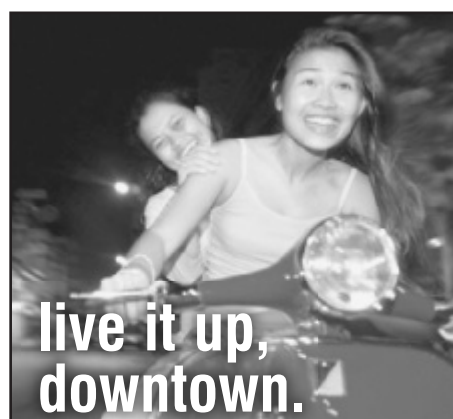
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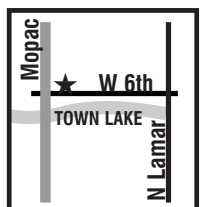
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VEGTRAVEL WORKSHOP What: Vegan and Vegetarian Travel Workshop Where: REI-Downtown (6th and Lamar) When: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:00-9:00pm (www.hiaustin.org) and Vegan Travel Extraordinaire, Christen Andrews (http://circleourearth.com/vegan-travel/) Sure it takes a little extra effort - but traveling as a vegetarian or vegan is not as tough as many people think. Join us at REI- Downtown, and you can learn how to travel the world as a vegan, and never feel like you are malnourished or missing out on some key cultural experiences. In fact, it can be quite the opposite. If you're open to tasting new and interesting foods, you'll be amazed at the variety of exciting things you'll get to try when traveling. This vegetarian travel class will teach travelers how it is completely possible to stick to your vegetarian belief system and enjoy the local cuisine anywhere you go. Questions? Email us at programs@hiaustin.org, or call us at 512.444.2294

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legal notices

ALIAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION AUSTIN CHRONICLE THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: SALVADOR HERNANDEZ Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this alias citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this alias citation, the same being MONDAY,

02/07/11, a default judgment may be taken against you. **CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-10-002102**, filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 **ZARATE V HERNANDEZ ET AL** Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on August 26, 2010.

STYLED: ZARATE V HERNANDEZ ET AL NATURE OF SUIT: PERSONAL INJURY MOTOR VEHICLE DAMAGES

Given under my hand and seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on September 20, 2010.

County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ C. JONES Plaintiff Attorney: LARRY LADEN 4407 BEE CAVES ROAD #301 AUSTIN, TX 78746

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GERTRUDE BELLE MILLER Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001283 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

HILARY MILLER DeWEERD and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on August 5, 2010, an Application for Letters of Administration where there is no Will and Determination of Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs

and only heirs of the said GERTRUDE BELLE MILLER, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 13, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

10-FL-645 TO: STACIE SHEPARD, RESPONDENT MOTHER, AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES, Petitioner, was filed in the Court of Caldwell County, Texas on the 22ND day of NOVEMBER, 2010, against STACIE SHEPPARD, RESPONDENT MOTHER, numbered 10-FL-645 and entitled IN THE INTEREST OF STERLING SCHUELKE, minor child. The date of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit: STERLING SCHUELKE; DOB: 10-30-2010. The Court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas, on this the 13TH day of DECEMBER 2010. TINA MORGAN, District Clerk P.O. Box 749, Lockhart, Texas 78644 By /s/ Janet Caddell DEPUTY

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

10-FL-645 TO: BRANDON SCHUELKE, RESPONDENT FATHER, AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES, Petitioner, was filed in the Court of Caldwell County, Texas on the 22ND day of NOVEMBER, 2010, against STACIE SHEPPARD, RESPONDENT MOTHER, numbered 10-FL-645 and entitled IN THE INTEREST OF STERLING SCHUELKE, minor child. The date of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit: STERLING SCHUELKE; DOB: 10-30-2010. The Court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

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SCHUELKE, RESPONDENT FATHER, AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES, Petitioner, was filed in the Court of Caldwell County, Texas on the 22ND day of NOVEMBER, 2010, against BRANDON SCHUELKE, RESPONDENT FATHER, numbered 10-FL-645 and entitled IN THE INTEREST OF STERLING SCHUELKE, minor child. The date of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit: STERLING SCHUELKE; DOB: 10-30-2010. The Court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas, on this the 13TH day of DECEMBER 2010.

TINA MORGAN, District Clerk P.O. Box 749, Lockhart, Texas 78644 By /s/ Janet Caddell DEPUTY

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSON INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RUBY LUCILLE SMITH, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001173 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

PEGGY O'NEIL LOFTON and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on October 29, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RUBY LUCILLE SMITH, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for Dec. 24-30

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I have tracked down a formula that I think should be one of your central ongoing meditations in 2011. It's from newsman David Brinkley: "A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him or her." In the coming months, you will be extra smart about knowing which of these bricks to use and how exactly to position them in your foundation. And more than that, Capricorn: You will have special insight not only about bricks that have been flung fairly recently, but also about those that have been hurled at any time in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The city of Stockholm, Sweden, consists of 14 islands that are spanned by more than 50 bridges. It's a beautiful, clean, culturally rich place that's ranked among the best urban centers in the world. I'm hoping that in the coming year you will develop a certain resemblance to it. With a little luck and a clear intention to forge strong new links, you will connect the many fragmented areas of your life, creating a unified network that ensures each part is humming in resonance with the whole. In fact, let's call 2011 your bridge-building year.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): At age 19, I wanted to be a poet when I grew up. My goal was to write a poem every day forever. And yet I had almost no ambition to get published. I was satisfied to bask in the ecstatic epiphany that accompanied each fresh poetic eruption. Then one day I was browsing in a bookshop and saw a flyer for a big upcoming poetry reading. It included every major poet in my then-hometown of Santa Cruz - except me. I was shocked and hurt. Why was I left out? Eventually I realized it was because all the other poets listed had written a book. From that moment on I was obsessively driven to publish my own tome. A year later, after much hard work, it came to pass. I would love to see you experience a similar wake-up call in 2011, Pisces: a friendly jolt that motivates you to rise to the next level.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "There's always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in," wrote novelist Graham Greene. I'll add to that: There are at least three moments in adulthood when a new door opens and invites the rest of the future in. Judging by the astrological omens, I'm guessing that one such breakthrough lies ahead for you in 2011. What can you do to expedite and encourage fate's summons? Here's one possibility: Surrender to the naked truth of what you love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If oil companies were given permission to sink their drilling rigs into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the petroleum they produced would ultimately lower gasoline prices by 4 cents per gallon. To my mind, that's not a good trade-off. Let this scenario serve as a cautionary metaphor for you in 2011, Taurus. Don't share your pristine wilderness or soulful beauty with exploitative types who offer iffy rewards. Instead, hold out for those who appreciate you profoundly and whose own gifts help you to thrive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Freud said that among all human endeavors, there were three "impossible professions" that inevitably yielded unsatisfying results. They were child-rearing, the governing of nations, and psychoanalysis. My own experiences don't entirely confirm this. My parents raised me pretty well, and I've given my daughter a decent upbringing. Of the nine psychotherapists I've consulted in my life, two were excellent healers and none was damaging. But even those relatively winning projects were sometimes fraught with unsolvable riddles, chronic frustrations, and maddening uncertainties. I bring this to you, Gemini, because I think 2011 will be a time when you will generate far more gratification and success than usual in your own versions of impossible professions. Unsolvable riddles, chronic frustrations, and maddening uncertainties won't be completely absent, but they could very well be at an all-time low.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "We have to believe in free will. We've got no choice." So said author Isaac Bashevis Singer. I encourage you to adopt that puckish thought as your motto in 2011, my fellow Cancerian. According to my reading of the astrological omens, this will be our year to supercharge our willpower and intensify our ability to carry out our plans - but always with good humor and a highly tuned sense of irony. In fact, one of the best ways to deepen our command over our own subconscious impulses and the caprices of fate will be to take ourselves - and everything else, too - less seriously.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The coming year will be a time to think big - maybe even bigger than you've dared to think in more than a decade. That doesn't mean you should be rash, reckless, or unrealistic. On the contrary. Your expansive dreams should be carefully wrought and anchored in a detailed understanding of how things actually work. As an example of what not to do, learn from Snoop Dogg. The rapper wanted to rent all 62 square miles of the small European nation of Liechtenstein so he could film his music video there. Liechtenstein authorities turned him down, but only because his team didn't ask far enough in advance. Had he been better organized, the whole country could have been his.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An Oregon man named Don Wesson stopped his truck by the side of the road and picked up a 40-pound rock that caught his eye. That was more than a decade ago. For years he used it as part of a border to prevent his dog from messing up his garden. Then he saw a TV show about meteorites and brought the rock to scientists. They told him it was a 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite that fell to Earth long ago and originally came from the asteroid belt. Other experts told him he could probably sell the exotic artifact for as much as \$40,000. I predict a metaphorically similar development in your life during the coming year: the discovery of a valuable old thing from far away that you will underestimate at first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Richard Grossinger is my friend, my teacher, and the brilliant author of numerous books. (His latest is called 2013.) He is also humbly adept in the high art of gratitude. On his website, he has a page devoted to expressing vivid appreciation for the 70-odd best teachers of his life (bit.ly/YourTeachers). His testimony is a riveting and touching reminder of how each of us is a creation of all the important people we've loved and hated. Compiling such a list should, I think, be a rite of passage for anyone who aspires to be an authentic human being. There will never be a better time than 2011 for you to do this work yourself, Libra.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Just when I found out the meaning of life," said comedian George Carlin, "they changed it." I'm hoping that will be one of your top inspirational jokes in 2011, Scorpio. If all goes well, you will no longer be content with all your previous answers to the question "What is the meaning of life?" - either because "they changed it," as Carlin suggested, or because it's no longer interesting or useful to you. This is very good news, in my opinion. You will have the invigorating privilege of going off in search of fresh answers to the riddle of the ages!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The United Nations has declared that 2011 will be the International Year of Chemistry - a time to honor the role chemistry plays in our lives. Meanwhile, you Sagittarians will be celebrating your own personal year of chemistry, although in a different sense of the word - the sense that means natural attraction, spontaneous connection, intuitive allure, and uncanny synchronicity. Don't let this abundance of grace make you overconfident, and don't just sit back and let it run wild. Be a master chemist intent on rigorously cultivating the very best experiments.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

IS THIS GUY THE IDIOT, OR ARE TOM AND RAY?

Dear Tom and Ray:

You recently answered a question about whether it's harmful to let your gas tank run down to empty. You said it's not harmful to the car, and it won't cause any damage. Eric Peters, a Washington, D.C.-based automotive columnist, recently stated in the periodical Bottom Line/Personal that, and I quote here: "Most gas tanks are made out of metal, and a partially empty fuel tank is prone to rust. Rust particles flake off and can clog fuel filters, fuel lines and fuel injectors, leading to costly repairs. In addition, rust can eat through the tank, creating holes."

So what gives? Are you two right and still my heroes and this guy is an idiot, or is he right and you two are idiots? A curious reader wants to know.

— Fred

RAY: Well, you already know we're idiots, Fred. But in this case, Mr. Peters' information is badly out of date.

TOM: In the old days, when tanks were metal and were vented to the outside air, rust and other particles were a problem. That's why cars had fuel filters – to keep that stuff out of the fuel lines and injectors.

RAY: But for more than a decade now, most fuel tanks have been made of plastic. Even the fuel lines that carry the gasoline from the tank to the engine are now plastic.

TOM: Rust is such a nonissue now that most cars don't even have fuel filters anymore. There's a "sock" filter on the fuel-pump intake in the tank – in case an irate neighbor pours a plate of stuffed clams into your tank – but that's it.

RAY: Plastic fuel tanks have a number of advantages: They weigh less, they're cheaper to produce, and they don't rust.

TOM: And they may be better in accidents, too.

RAY: For a while, running the car out of fuel concerned us, because the fuel serves as the coolant for the fuel pump – which sits at the bottom of the tank. But we really haven't seen any problems with fuel pumps to justify that concern.

TOM: So our opinion is, it's fine to run the car down to empty. If that makes you happy, go for it. Just don't call us to pick you up when you run out of gas, Fred.

* * *

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on



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continued

legal notices

COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on October 29, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy:/s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TYRA ANNETTE GRAHAM Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-002033 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

KERRY BARLOW GRAHAM and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 16, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship, Appointment of Admin-

istrator and Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said TYRA ANNETTE GRAHAM, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND HE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 16, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas

AV0119 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DEL-EGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

**JANUARY 19, 2011 @ 9:30 AM
@ SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,
8200 S. CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX 78745**

103351350		TOYT	LL	590TTC	TX	JT3VN29V7L0003388
103420437	1990	DODG	4DR		TX	1B3XP48D8LN163917
105064617	2000	FORD	LL	W55DDK	TX	1FMZU72EXYZB34319
105065541	1997	FORD	2DR	K55FJ	TX	1FALP4041VF161390
105065542	1991	FORD	LL	CB3C365	TX	1FMDU32X7MJA86810
105065547	1997	FORD	VN	8YNGG	TX	1FDEE14L7VHA27850
105065849	1991	FORD	VN	SGM9DV	TX	1FDEE14N9MHA92618
105066056	1996	CHEV	PK	UL5438	TX	1GCCS19X8T8206170
105066061	1991	CADI	4DR	652WTT	TX	1G6DW54E6MR708289
105066145		ISUZ	4DR			452CK58D2Y4351626
105066149	1997	LINC	4DR	196RGR	TX	1LNLMM181W2V675419
105066151	2005	NEON	4DR	183CHV	TX	1B3CES26C65D113398
105066293	1986	OLDS	4DR	BW6V391	TX	1G3CW69B1G4312995
105066307	1986	PK		AF73867	TX	1GTET14H2GS521951

P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

D-1-GV-09-001644

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98TH District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of November, 2010 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-09-001644, wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and ROBERT SUMMERS, JR. AND CAROLE M. SUMMERS are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$23,994.73** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 30, 2010.

I, on the 23rd day of November, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of January, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6, Block 8, McKinley Heights Addition (Olt. 26, Div. B), Plat No. 4/110, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 5154, Page 2069 and Probate Cause No. 75,965 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

LOT 9016, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATE, SECTION NINE, PLAT VOL. 51, PAGE 78, AS DESC. IN VOL. 6993, PAGE 1073 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$23,994.73** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of November, 2010.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-403670

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 17th day of November, 2010 in a certain cause numbered GV-403670, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and The Unknown Heirs and/or Devises of Willie B. Hardison, Deceased, Gloria Johnson, Deceased Executor of the

Estate of Oscar Hardison, Sr., Gloria Johnson (Life Estate), Julia Ann Allen (Remainderman), Oscar Hardison, Jr. (Remainderman), Cora Lee Jackson a/k/a Cory Lou Jackson (Remainderman), Esther Lee Ertie a/k/a Esther Hardison Urdy, (Remainderman), Esle-an Early (Remainderman), Gladys Williams (Remainderman), Jack Hardison (Remainderman), Jill Thomas (Remainderman), and James Moore Properties, LLC and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$25,628.30** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 1, 2010.

I, on the 23rd day of November, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of January, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6, Block 8, McKinley Heights Addition (Olt. 26, Div. B), Plat No. 4/110, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 5154, Page 2069 and Probate Cause No. 75,965 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$25,628.30** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of November, 2010.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:

PRECINCT THREE: PLACE STOP SIGN ON HAPPY VALE PATHWAY SOUTH-EAST BOUND AT HAZY HILLS DRIVE. PLACE STOP SIGN ON MANANA MOUNTAIN CIRCLE SOUTH-BOUND AT HAPPY VALE PATHWAY. PLACE STOP SIGN ON MANANA MOUNTAIN CIRCLE SOUTHEAST BOUND AT HAZY HILLS DRIVE.

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be

received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council and Zoning Commission of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following item: (1) A request for a Zoning Change 4934 Highway 290 West from SF (Single Family Residential) to HC (Highway Commercial).

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing or emailed to citysecretary@sunsetvalley.org. All written comments must be received by 3:00 p.m., on or before Monday January 10, 2011. The zoning change application may be examined at the office of the City Administrator for Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours or may be accessed on the city's website at www.sunsetvalley.org.

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted at City Hall, 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas, on the 17th day of December, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Rae Gene Greenough
City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

U-STORE-IT hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **January 4, 2011** beginning at 9:30 A.M. at the U-STORE-IT located at 610 E. Stassney Lane Austin, Texas. This sale will continue to each designated address location listed below after the completion of the beginning sale. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

U-Store-It #751

**610 E. Stassney Lane
Austin, TX 78745**

512-441-8300

Sarah Higginbotham, Unit 2147 - bags, boxes, mirror, picture, suitcase, clothing, coat rack.

Linda Samilpa, Unit 2234 - headboard, boxes, clothing, dryer, lamps, refrigerator, shelves, table, washing machine, cabinets, luggage, camping gear, stove.

Galen Wadsworth, Unit 3160 - bicycle, boxes, fishing poles, shelves, sofa, stool, table, tote.

Bradley White, Unit 3211 - bed frame, boxes, chairs, shelf, sofa, tables, kids bed, tote.

U-Store-It #753

10025 Manchaca Rd

Austin, TX 78748

512-292-1760

Chrystal Moreno, Unit 606 - Baby crib, bag, chairs, TV, tote.

David Strother, Unit 698 - bed frame, boxes, cabinet, shelves, crates, briefcases. Jeffery Haines, Unit 700 - headboard, boxes, chairs, speakers.

Jeff Yanes, Unit 746 - bags, box spring, frame, mattress, boxes, cloths.

AUCTIONEER: KENNETH HIERHOLZER 6568

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Great American Storage located at 16450 FM 620 Round Rock TX 78681 (512-248-1518) and Your Storage Solution located at 12506 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753 (512-339-6300) will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. **Sale will begin at Your Storage Solution at 4:30pm on January 8, 2011.** Sale to highest cash bidder. Sale contains household furniture and goods from the following tenant's spaces: Great American Storage: Nancy Kay Carrasco. Your Storage Solution: Siriboury Chiranay, J. Hinojosa II, Ben Juarez, Ki Tae Lim, Searcy Jacobs, Michael Moore.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF WAYNE RICHARD HARKINS, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001766, styled Estate of Wayne Richard Harkins, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on November 16, 2010, to Joan Marie Harkins.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:

c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,

HEARON & MOODY

a Professional Corporation

Attn: Raleigh R. Johnston

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 16th day of November, 2010.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,

HEARON & MOODY,

A Professional Corporation

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

(512) 480-5600 Telephone

(512) 480-5827 Telecopier

By: Kevin Holcomb

State Bar No. 09824000

/s/ Raleigh R. Johnston

State Bar No. 24070011

ATTORNEYS FOR INDE-

PENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH A. REIFSNYDER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001844, styled Estate of Elizabeth A. Reifsnnyder, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 6, 2010, to Robert B. Reifsnnyder, Thomas Reifsnnyder and Andrew C. Reifsnnyder.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent executor of the Estate in care of Patricia A. Campbell at the following address:

c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,

HEARON & MOODY

a Professional Corporation

Attn: Patricia A. Campbell

Post Office Box 98

Austin, Texas 78767

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner

prescribed by law.
DATED the 16th day of December, 2010.
Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,
HEARON & MOODY,
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell
State Bar No. 03714100
(512) 480-5625
(512) 480-5825 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOYCE L. BARKER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joyce L. Barker were issued on December 16, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001927 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Nancy G. Hansen.

The residence of such Executor is Harris County, Texas. The office address is:
Nancy G. Hansen
c/o Amy P. Bloomquist, Esq.
Attorney at Law
614 Capital of Texas Hwy.
South
Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 30th day of December, 2010.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH B. GLEESON, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001828, styled Estate of Elizabeth B. Gleeson, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 9, 2010, to Austin M. Gleeson.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the Estate in care of his attorneys at the following address:
c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
a Professional Corporation
Attn: Kevin Holcomb
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098
All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 14th day of December, 2010.
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY,
A Professional Corporation
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098
512.480.5627 Telephone
512.480.5827 Fax
By: /s/ Kevin Holcomb
State Bar ID No.: 09824000
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ELAINE GARNER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELAINE GARNER, Deceased, were granted on the 14th day of December, 2010, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001917 in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to:
Steven Russell Brady,
Independent Executor
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the

Estate addressed as follows:
Steven Russell Brady,
Independent Executor
Estate of Elaine Garner,
Deceased
c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC,
Attn: Clint Alexander
2901-D Bee Caves Road
Austin, Texas 78746.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 14th day of December, 2010.
Steven Russell Brady,
Independent Executor of the Estate of Elaine Garner, Deceased
By: /s/ Clint Alexander
2901-D Bee Caves Road
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 328-8355
FAX: (512) 328-8413
Attorneys for the Independent Executor

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. (OWNER) for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work required for the construction of **Steiner Ranch Commercial Detention Pond - Access and Drainage Improvements** will be received at the office of: Texas Engineering Solutions at 5000 Bee Caves Road Suite 206, Austin, TX 78746 **until 2:00pm CST, January 13, 2011.** Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with name and address of the BIDDER and the following words:

Proposal for Steiner Ranch Commercial Detention Pond Access and Drainage Improvements
The Commercial Detention Pond project at Steiner Ranch: Access and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 1,050 LF of right-of-way preparation; 450 LF of Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 288 LF of Class III concrete box culverts with headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed access and drainage improvements. All work must conform to State of Texas, City of Austin, Travis County, and Water Control Improvement District Number 17 rules and criteria.

Bidding documents will be made available for review to bidders upon request. If hardcopies are desired, please request from Texas Engineering Solutions with minimum 24-hr advance notice required. Hardcopies of the documents may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of \$75 per set. Make checks for hardcopies payable to Texas Engineering Solutions.

A Cashier's Check, Certified Check or acceptable BIDDER's Bond, payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the BIDDER will enter into a contract and execute bonds within ten (10) days of award of the Contract. Performance and Payment Bonds shall also be executed on the forms furnished by the OWNER and shall specifically provide for "Performance" and for "Labor

and Materials Payment". Each bond shall be issued in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of contract price by a solvent Surety company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to the OWNER.
The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all technicalities and formalities in bidding. The OWNER reserves the right to determine which bids are lowest and best, and to award the Contract on this basis. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after opening of the bids. If a submitted bid is withdrawn within said period, bid guaranty shall become the property of the OWNER, not as penalty, but as liquidated damages, or OWNER may pursue any other action allowed by law. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on **January 4, 2011 at 1:30pm** at the Steiner Ranch Welcome Center located at 4304 N. Quinlan Park Road, Austin, Texas 78732. Prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions and scope of work.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Oscar G. Brockett, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2010, in Cause C-1-PB-10-001889 pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to Francesca Lane Brockett, Independent Executor. The residence of Francesca Lane Brockett is Travis County, Texas. The address for presentation of claims is:

Estate of Oscar G. Brockett, Deceased
Francesca Lane Brockett, Independent Executor
c/o W. Thomas Buckle, Attorney at Law
602 West 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78702
Claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to be presented within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Date: December 24, 2010

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of PAUL SCOTT MORGAN, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2010, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001315, to Linda A. Morgan, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorneys for the estate, addressed to Gibson Davenport Anderson, 4214 Medical Parkway, Suite 202, Austin, Texas 78756. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 21st day of December, 2010.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Linda Legg Taylor, aka Linda Lou Taylor, Deceased, were issued on September 21, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001414, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Shannon Mathena and Jennifer Schlueter.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel

Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 16th day of December, 2010.
/s/ Candice H. Bocock,
Attorney

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that the original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of L.T. Berry, Deceased, were issued on December 7, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001313, pending in Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Samuel Matthews. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Vivian E. Ross-Bennett at P.O. Box 203774, Austin, Texas 78720-3774.

Dated: December 20, 2010.
/s/ Vivian E. Ross-Bennett
Attorney for the Independent Administrator
State Bar No. 24049665
Telephone: (512) 330-4099
Facsimile: (512) 331-0872

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Shirley J. Bonner, Deceased, were issued on December 14, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001048, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Robert A. Bonner.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: **FRANCES H. BENNETT Attorney at Law**
7800 N. MoPac, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78759
DATED the 14th day of December, 2010.
Gabriel G. Gallas
State Bar No.: 24069750
Shelly C. Fristoe
State Bar No.: 07480800
Frances H. Bennett
State Bar No. 00783634
7800 N. MoPac, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78759
Telephone: (512) 407-8888
Facsimile: (512) 407-8588

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances B. Butler, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001541, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Craig Hillis.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Gayle Cipriano
Attorney at Law
7903 Bracken Court
Austin, TX 78731
DATED the 17th day of December, 2010.
/s/ Gayle Cipriano, Attorney for Craig Hillis
State Bar No.: 03783500
7903 Bracken Court
Austin, TX 78731
Telephone: (512) 346-7484
Facsimile: (512) 346-1108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary

for the Estate of John W. Sutphin, Deceased, were issued on July 22, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001091 pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Charles F. Daily, Jr.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Charles F. Daily, Jr.
1313 Lost Creek Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78746
DATED the 21st day of December, 2010.
/s/ Charles F. Daily, Jr.
Attorney for Charles F. Daily, Jr., State Bar No.: 05317300
Austin, Texas 78746
Telephone: (512) 524-0055
Facsimile: (512) 524-0055
(Call first)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bernice Louise Suttles Youngblood, Deceased, were issued on October 28, 2010 in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001648, pending in the Probate Court No. One (1), Travis County, Texas, to: Maxine Suttles Birk Meiners.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Maxine Suttles Birk Meiners
11102 Spicewood Parkway
Austin, Texas 78750
DATED the 10th day of December, 2010.
Maxine Suttles Birk Meiners, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Bernice Louise Suttles Youngblood, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Anita B. Cappleman, Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001690, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: LENNIE JOE CAPPLEMAN.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to LENNIE JOE CAPPLEMAN, Independent Executor, at the office of Sarah Zottarelli, 405 W. 14th St., Austin, Texas 78701 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 20th day of December, 2010.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Gasoline and Diesel Fuel, B110070-LD
Opens: January 10, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.
2.Automotive Storage Batteries, B110071-LD
Opens: January 10, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m.
Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bid-

ders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Third party Administration for Travis County's Self-Funded Programs - Workers Compensation and Automobile Liability, RFS S110037-OJ
Opens: January 7, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.
2.Consulting Services Related to Redistricting, RFS S110035-EC
Opens: January 7, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROSEMARY BARNES were issued on December 21, 2010 in Docket Number C-1-PB-10-001961, pending in the Probate Number One, Travis County, Texas to CHARLOTTE BIGGERSTAFF, Independent Executor. The address of record for CHARLOTTE BIGGERSTAFF is 5605 Muster Court, Austin, Texas 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The City of Sunset Valley is accepting proposals until 2:00 P.M. January 21, 2011, (Submission deadline) for the design and installation of a solar powered rain collection system at City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas. A MANDATORY PRE-BID Conference will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 2:00 at City Hall.

Specifications, plans and other documents are available for pick up at City Hall beginning Tuesday, December 28, 2010. Questions contact (512) 892-1383. All proposals must be marked "Rain Collection Design and Installation", and mailed or hand delivered to the City of Sunset Valley Attention: City Secretary, 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas 78745. The City of Sunset Valley reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Responses received after this time and date will not be accepted.

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"TIGHT FIRM EXOTIC"

I'm 5'5" petite Chicana. Looking for a little late night fun. Love the outdoors and trying new things. Love to be adventurous and daring. **hottchica**, 30,  **#134242**


SWEETANDCLASSY

Hello to all the gentlemen my names goldengoddest I'm a 33 year old submissive slave I'm looking for a very true dominate master please feel free to email me thanks. **goldengoddest**, 33,  **#134002**


FUN AND FLIRTY

I'm a very outgoing person I love going out and having fun. I have several tattoos. I'm looking for someone to have fun with and possibly more. **teffa82**, 28,  **#133778**


TASTY PIECE

Tasty piece looking for her tasty piece match. Looking for a sexy white or Latin (wo)man that loves their women thick and sweet. 420 friendly. **phoenixphenom10**, 22,  **#133164**


DOMME SEEKS SUB

NEW DUNGEON set up and ready to PLAY!! Contact Me...Let's make a date!!!! **MistressZann**, 50,  **#130836**


SWEET, FRIENDLY, PLUS-SIZE

I'm looking for friends and possibly friends with benefits. I am shy but open up really quickly. :) Send me a message. You won't regret it. **Willow1113**, 19,  **#129849**


MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litlred**, 32,  **#128782**


HORNY BI COUPLE

Here a bi couple that would like to find another bi couple that we could become friends with. You don't need to be perfect just be able to have fun. **txfunnsuncouple**, 45,  **#134455**

LOOKING FOR COUPLE

We're a couple wanting to have a three-some or be with a couple on a regular bases. I am Bi and he is straight. Preferable with a happily married couple. **eroticflame1968**, 42,  **#134431**


DARE TO SLUT?

Fun, safe, rough and raunchy- serious about finding a female or couple for discreet encounters. Is there a dirty slut inside you daring to get out? I hold the key. **neversoofast**, 38,  **#134415**

STUD FOR WIFE

We are looking for a well hung man to join us for a hot evening of play! **lynnum9**, 35,  **#134201**


COUPLE SEEKS WOMAN.

We're a young couple looking for female playmate. he's 5'11 and muscular. she is 5'6 and curvy. we're both fun and easy to chill with. hit us up. **MorningEuphoria**, 23,  **#134383**


WANTS A GIRLFRIEND!

I am a 25 year old female. My bf is 27 and is willing to share me. I need a girl I can hang out with in/out of the bedroom! **BeautifulGirl713**, 25,  **#134292**


HIS FIRST THREESOME

We are an attractive couple seeking a feminine female for his first three-some. He is a singer in a band, therefore, we must be discreet. Email pics. **bibigirlie**, 40,  **#134288**


SEXYKITTYKAT

Happy, secure, married couple seeking a woman or couple (man and woman) for discreet encounters. He enjoys watching, so let's give him a show he won't forget! **bcknrede4u**, 37,  **#134194**

LATIN COUPLE LOOKING

Hi everyone, we are a couple new to this and looking to play with another couple or single bi lady. We are both fit and ready to play. **austincouples**, 30,  **#134167**

COUPLE 4 PLAYMATE

Him 6'5, I'm 6'; both HWFP. We are discreet, Caucasian ISO a woman comfortable in sexuality interested in joining us. Are you the right woman? We'd like to find out. **TallOnes**, 39,  **#134085**


COUPLE SEEKS SPICE

hey there, happily married couple seeks a new erotic adventure-add girl. Meet at a local bar.if mutually attracted head to nice hotel. we are in good shape. Have FUN. **austinthree-some**, 39,  **#134000**


SWEET, NAUGHTY, ADVENTUROUS

We are a 35/36 year old couple looking for a woman to play with. I have never been with another woman. My boyfriend wants to watch and possible join in. **naughtygirl**, 36,  **#133960**

SATURDAY NIGHT SEXTACY

We're looking for sexy, smart no-drama couples and single females. Pictures don't lie. We like friendship and fun almost as much as the play. **Bodychemistry**, 27,  **#133895**


GORGEOUS COUPLE SEEKING

We are a deeply-in-love, playful married couple actively seeking a 3rd in the person of a young woman for fun and fantasy play. Sound like fun? Message us ... **hotatxcouple**, 31,  **#133881**


AUSTIN'S SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married black couple in search of Single ladies. We enjoy going out and looking for a well rounded woman to join us on our adventures. **BlkAustinCpl**, 26,  **#133842**


TONGUE PLAY

I am looking for a woman to help me relax. I prefer hispanic or white woman, average size and who are girly. **lovelyt**, 26,  **#133370**


CUTIEKAILS FWB

Married couple looking for a third. No pressure, get to know eachother first and see where it leads.Looking for a thick lady between ages 21-38. Please no couples, men, or psychos! **kailsrocks**, 28,  **#133277**


FEM FEM FEM

I am a bisexual lipstick who is seeking casual female relationships to explore both on my own, and with my man. **welovefunatx**, 31,  **#133020**

FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? **femaleforme**, 35,  **#131835**

WILL TRY ANYTHING

I would like to try different things I haven't done before few limitations. I like to give and receive pleasure from different kinds of people. **newnopen**, 38,  **#134152**

NYMPHO

young intelligent sexpot looking to broaden my horizons. Looking for experienced couple to do what they want with me. **21stcentury-sex**, 21, **#133753**


SWEETBABY PHATPHAT

Sexy, juicy, young and clean seeking a mature discreet playmate(s) for daddy/daughter, oral, wet/dry encounters, role playing etc...I just get freaky from time to time and want my desires fulfilled. **PrettiThicknBwvnGurl**, 29, **#133189**

PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIANBEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man;couples considered. I'm very open-minded,feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STD-Free. **Asian-Orchid**, 25,  **#131487**


YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know....ava 18. **pimp**, 20,  **#129789**


LOOK NICE BOOBS

wife loves to walk around topless outdoors. if you are discreet can you watch? nothing extra or kinky. size34d, older gentleman or couple to watch. lakes,parks,discreet. **mickey5252**, 49, **#117158**


ROMPIN STOMPIN ROMANCE

Hey beautiful women I am a well hung horny guy looking for exciting discreet encounters. **passion4u**, 48,  **#120998**


NW BI MALE

Experienced in oral but hoping for more. Bi guy with hot girl. One or both. Let me know what you want. Want normal and hopefully regular. **Mark1225**, 38,  **#134044**


SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Day-time encounters might be necessary. **volcano**, 50,  **#127424**


BOTTOM 4 TOP

Hispanic Bottom,45 years old... looking for discreet encounter with a Top guy. I am discreet open to new things, ages between 23 and 50 years old, preference black or mixed. **antonio**, 3638, 46,  **#118402**


PURE TANTRIC EXTACY

I am here to give you prolonged, body quivering, mind numbing, pleasure induced extacy. **Here4You**, 34,  **#134036**


JILL2JACK

Hi, Its a great pleasure to meet you and chat. As for me Nothing special, just another person looking for love and friendship. **Insight35**, 34,  **#133781**


NAUGHTY BI BOY

Title says it all. SWM seeking women and couples that are open-minded. Very DDF. Might be persuaded by males, if perfect fit. I love to submitting to women and kinks. **Centex_Male**, 39,  **#126501**

NSA FUN FWB

NSA fun or FWB is what im up for.... im 420 friendly and well jus lookin to have fun so lets play sumtime...dont b shy i dont bite jus lick :). **NSAfun-FWB**, 27,  **#117613**


CD 4 FUN

Just a crossdresser looking for hot times. I like to dress up and play the part. Daytime play at your place will be fun. Interested? **HotBlond**, 39,  **#134392**


BLONDE T-GIRL

Blonde Shemale likes to play poker with Boys. Seeking NSA late night buddies who enjoy a cocktail and a walk on the wildside. **BlondeHottie**, 33,  **#101055**

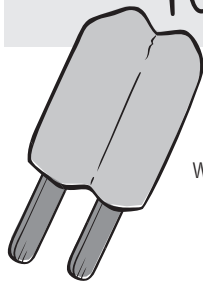
HOT, HUNG, FUN!

I am a tall (6'5"), handsome, well-endowed, successful, intelligent, fun-loving, adventurous, and sexual guy! I love women more than anything, and I would love to share amazing times with yall! **cj54321**, 25,  **#134462**

HONEST GOOD TIME.

Looking for just that. A no drama unselfish and honest exchange of sensations, experiences, fantasies, friendship and bodily fluids. Simple, right? And you? **honest6oodtime**, 36,  **#134447**

Flavor of the Week



txfunnsuncouple Age: 45

Horny Bi couple for sex

We would like to find another bi couple that we could become friends with. We love to dance, hang out on 6th street, play pool, camp out, hot tubbing

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There are probably a few money shots left to be fired in your annual orgy of excess. Sure, the economy is deep in the shitter and the red Chinese have us by the shorthairs, but that isn't conclusive evidence that you need to rein in your consumerism. Who knows? America may only be a few hundred million maxed-out credit cards away from economic salvation. One thing is for certain: You're not going to kick-start an economic recovery by sitting home singing Christmas carols, drinking eggnog, and stringing together popcorn garlands. That's exactly the kind of tedious sweatshop work we used to pawn off on Third World orphans. Think about it: If stringing popcorn garlands

is so fun, why isn't there a Nintendo Wii game based on it? Even golf has a Wii game, and golf is just slightly more exciting than an afternoon nap ... or maybe death itself – which may explain why so many old people play it. All golf requires is that you move slightly faster than the grass growing beneath your feet. If you can't do that, just rent a golf cart – or buy a Wii. Wiis might be made by the Japanese, but they're as American as apple pie. After all, this country was founded on the idea that if you work hard enough, eventually you can afford something or someone that will do the work for you. Remember when Tom Sawyer had to paint his Aunt Polly's fence? He conned the neighborhood kids into doing it for him. Tom Sawyer is an American hero – just like the young men and women in our armed forces who pilot attack drones. Drone piloting surely lacks the glamour of humping it through the Helmand River Valley with 100-plus pounds of assorted gear and weaponry, but it definitely gets the job done, proving yet again that with enough money nearly anything is possible. Stringing popcorn garlands and singing Christmas carols doesn't pay for attack drones or swarms of poison-injecting assassin nanobots. Buying a Nintendo Wii does, however. It also provides good training for the war of the future. Sharpened sticks are out; joysticks are in. Someday, if Americans can just cough up the cash, the roughly 1.4 million active U.S. military personnel in the world will all be equipped with their own predator drone and pocket-ful of poison-injecting assassin nanobots. That way they can sit safely in some underground bunker and unleash unmitigated hell on whichever unfortunate meat puppet has the audacity to challenge truth, justice, and the American way. As always, the tricky part to making this happen is coming up with the money. We can't just ask the red Chinese to fork over trillions of dollars for us to build an unstoppable remote-controlled robot army. The red Chinese are not chumps. We have to backdoor this deal by mindlessly running up our credit-card debt. That will put the economy on hyperdrive and allow for some really lavish defense spending. Yes, at some point the red Chinese will try to collect their money, but all our military might rest assured that the knock on America's door will be a very polite, timid tap. Of course, if you're going to spend money to preserve America's military world dominance, there's no better place to do it than at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, which runs daily from 11am to 11pm through Christmas Eve at the Palmer Events Center. The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar is an Austin institution and a great place to purchase unique and interesting gifts made by Austin-area artists. You'll also get to hear live music performed by some of Austin's most beloved bands. Who knows? Something this fun might eventually end up on a Nintendo Wii ... or maybe some things are just too much fun for a joystick.


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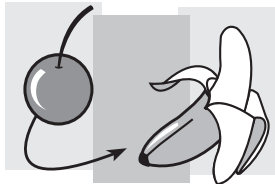
 means there is a voice message you can listen to. With a membership, you can listen and respond to as many voice messages as your heart desires. There are no 900 numbers or per-minute fees. Regular long-distance charges may apply.

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lovers lane



FUN TIMES

Thirty-something and on the prowl again. Hate bars. Don't want to date at work. Really hate fix-ups. What's girl to do? Looking for fun, LTR not a must. **No_Drama**, 38, [#134461](#)

ACTIVE, LOVE-ABLE REDHEAD

I love music, gardening, cooking, dancing, traveling, medicine, hiking, camping, people and my friends and family. I'm constantly looking for laughs, adventure and someone to share it with. **heartofgold7**, 26, [#134378](#)

NERDY METALHEAD

I'm a nerd. I love comic books, sci-fi, and heavy metal. I also love the outdoors, photography, and downtown. Really? This isn't even 20 words? **NotThatDoctor**, 22, [#134436](#)

BEAUTIFUL, CURVY, TATTOOED

Beautiful, curvy, and tattooed with an awesome personality! I love to laugh and have fun! I loved being single, but ready for something different. **hb1985**, 25, [#134397](#)

VINTAGE ROMANCE

I am a student and I am looking for a smart man that can be in a long term relationship. Very interested in music, classic movies, and conspiracies theories. **vintage60**, 20, [#129658](#)

SINGLE

It's so hard to describe myself as I am sure it's for most people. I guess the best way to put it's that I am genuine person with a huge heart.... **mybarbara01**, 33, [#134314](#)

FUTURISTIC CHICK

I enjoy listening to bands, going out for coffee, or watching movies. I'm looking for an honest, hardworking guy that has been in the Austin area for a while. **geminigirl82**, 28, [#119250](#)

ACITVE AND OUT-OF-CONTROL

Looking for someone that is as passionate for life as I am! Must enjoy outdoors and love dogs! Motivated and Inspired feel free to contact me! **mkissd9m**, 27, [#134221](#)

SMART, CONFIDENT, FUN

Really? 30-word limit to describe myself? Um, I can strike up conversation with anyone, I studied French for eight years for nothing, and do boxer-wearing guys worry about saggy balls? **lesoleil**, 38, [#134303](#)

LOVE+WAR=ME

Trying to find a true romance. really quirky & energetic. I talk in circles but make perfect sense. I want to be myself around someone original & cheesy. **classylikeboxwine**, 23, [#134238](#)

SPONTANEOUS QUIRKY HYBRID

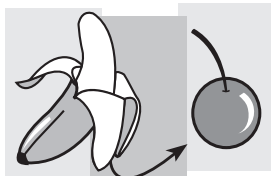
Hesitant to embrace the tech world of dating, but forced to admit I'm too spacey to realize when I'm being hit on. Coax me out from behind the curtain? **TigerLily**, 22, [#134404](#)

GOOFY CUTE GIRL

Looking to meet new people and maybe even that special someone.i like to go to concerts,movies, swimming,kayaking,hiking,shopping,dancing, dining out,traveling,cuddling on the couch,laugh and goof around with good people. **MariaFria**, 24, [#134227](#)

ROBOT... BEEPI

I love shows, being successful, and biking. In a partner I fancy eyes, beards, intelligence, and opinions.I'm not into consumerism or big corporations. I like dominance, I seek my opposite. **Euphoria**, 21, [#134192](#)



DOWN TO EARTH

I play hard and love harder. Im loud and layed back, i love girls that are funny and ready to do what ever comes to mind. **countryboy20**, 19, [#134457](#)

SARCASM DU JOUR

Humor, the randomness of life, and enjoying good company is why I'm here. I'd really like to share new experiences in this new town I find myself in. **lowroda**, 34, [#134453](#)

SLEEPLESS IN AUSTIN...

I'm fun loving, comical, easy going, relaxed, hoping for the "better" things in life. I'm a giver. I like rock music. Love zombie movies. Seeking someone fun, full of life. **Talan69er**, 39, [#134442](#)

SHY SCI-FI GEEK

Ugh, lets see. shy, artsy type who reads comics. surprise to see this here? **bunny70**, 40, [#134441](#)

WAKE BOARD DORK

I'm looking for someone who enjoys the outdoors and isn't afraid of doing something for the first time, maybe skydiving or wall climbing, wake boards and mother boards. **Bottle-cap_Marksman**, 33, [#134435](#)

AIRBOUND, GENTLEMAN, CREATOR

a good man with a good heart that has been rebuild many times, i live my life for the next day cause it just seems to get better. **skankfrank**, 22, [#134414](#)

CONFIDENT NOT EXTREME.

I am a little conservative (old school) in a few ways. Manners, Style, Respect, and not following the crowd. Other than that I pretty open-minded. **iWillLoveYouBack**, 23, [#134429](#)

ECCENTRIC, WANNABE ARISTOCRAT

Moved back in August...I'm looking to meet new people and just be sociable. I love Austin from the outdoors to music to the friendly people in general. I'm home!!! **chance749**, 33, [#123529](#)

LAIDBACK, ADVENTUROUS, COURTEOUS.

I like being outdoors doing fun things like hiking the greenbelt, going to festivals around town, kayaking, camping, the beach, playing guitar, and hanging out with friends. **Sun-ray**, 25, [#134401](#)

LEVITATER

I'm trying to beat life because I can't cheat death. I'm passionate about life, art, and family. Sometimes being creative consumes all of me. **transcendi**, 29, [#134388](#)

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

Well I am tall, blue-eyed, and love music and food. Spend lots of time thinking of things so I am very passionate about what I like. **PassionatMess**, 27, [#134380](#)

UNFOLDING FROM WITHIN

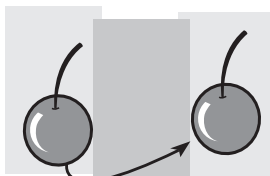
Simply open to meeting someone to share this naturally burning fire from withinÖTo contemplate nature, people, and the ticking of the clock withÖ. **gypsiesamongstflowers**, 37, [#129691](#)

LAID BACK, SARCASTIC

Flirting on Lover's Lane is way fun, so return the favor ya love-sick sucka. BONUS POINTS: smart/shrewd/witty, into cool music & movies, easy-going, redhead(?), chill. **DestinysChild**, 23, [#134353](#)

FAR FROM AVERAGE

I am a cool guy, very laid back. Twisted, sarcastic sense of humor. Not a huge party person. 30 word limit for this is ridiculous. Ask me about me! **whateversclever**, 29, [#134351](#)



INTELLIGENT, TATTOOED, ROWDY

I love to have fun, I have a big heart, I'm happy in my life and would love someone to share that happiness with. **knuckle_head**, 29, [#134428](#)

SHY, EASY GOING

pretty quiet at first but once the engines start im pretty easy going. looking for some convo and maybe more. want to start out slow. **jstailshy**, 28, [#134345](#)

BOHEMIAN PARADISE

I have a big heart and dedicate a lot of my time helping others. I love learning and celebrating diverse cultures.I try to live a sustainable lifestyle. **sillywoman**, 18, [#134320](#)

KIND HEARTED, SWEET, CARING

i'm a stay at home mommy...looking for someone mature and good head on her sholders.kids are okay. Come cuddle up with me. Even if your just looking for friends. **ShyMariposa**, 27, [#134222](#)

LAUGH AT LIFE

sooo ive never dated a woman, but want to. live for music, 420, and findin my bliss people tell me im honest and passionate and bourbon makes me grin. **katkins**, 23, [#134157](#)

SHY, CREATIVE, OUT-GOING

I'm shy when i first meet someone but i warm up pretty fast, I'm openminded and always ready to try new things. **singingpoema**, 19, [#134146](#)



LOOKING FOR LOVE

am faithful,honest n single. **terry-larry75**, 55, [#133519](#)

MAKE AN OFFER

Available: One late model white male, low mileage, well-maintained, single-owner, runs smooth, tune-ups performed regularly, firm but comfortable seating with tons of features. Some minor scratches/flaws, but hardly noticeable. **tkaustin**, 49, [#119526](#)



LAIDBACK SMALL-TOWN GUY

I'm from a small town about thirty minutes down east of Austin. I'm know the area but there's still a lot of Austin I'd like to explore with someone new. **jthomas**, 24, [#134451](#)

TWO LEFT FEET

Help! Two left feet looking to learn how to dance with a patient compassionate instructor for fitness and fun! Very high energy, focused and passionate. **waterlootexas**, 41, [#134367](#)

PICK ME !

Hoping to meet people that are nerds/tech junkies, LAN party animals or average people. **JaySanchez414**, 31, [#134304](#)

NEW TO AUSTIN.

lookin for friends, likes= food, music, comic books, cheesy 80's movies, what have you. out. **foodiedude**, 22, [#134225](#)



Flavor of the Week

ATX_VIA_OMA Age: 25

Well, This is New

I've come to realize experiences are more important than money. And while that may sound obvious, I had to move to Texas to learn it. So there you go. I'm at my best in conversation. Even though I get digressive and tangential, I'm pretty good at tying it back to the original point, eventually (well, usually).

read the rest of **ATX_VIA_OMA's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**



OH GROCERY BOY

You: Boy with curls working at the South Lamar Sun Harvest trying not to crush tomatoes with melon Me: Girl with the piano strap bag. Brunch and a bike ride? **When: Sunday, December 19. Where: South Lamar Sun Harvest. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905131**

DIVINITY AT OPAL'S

Baby, it was cold outside, but you warmed me up whenever you walked by. You a short beauty, with hazel eyes, feathers in your hair. Hope to see you again.. **When: Sunday, December 12. Where: Opal Divine's Freehouse. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905129**

B&N STARBUCKS BLONDE

U: in line b4 me @R.R.B&N Starbucks. Didn't get whipped cream. I didn't get your name or number. I'm an idiot. Go 4coffee 8a chat, maybe talk about those boots? **When: Saturday, December 18. Where: Round Rock Barnes and Noble Starbucks. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905128**

MEETUP AT JASPER'S

Me: Tall blonde with horn-rimmed glasses. I asked to borrow your table for my drink. You: Blonde with straight hair we stared and you winked. I regret not introducing myself.... **When: Thursday, December 9. Where: Jasper's In the Domain. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905126**

SKY BLUE EYES

You: lovely cashier with graying hair and bright blue eyes at Lamar Whole Foods. Me: bald guy, joked you did a great job with the card reader. You smiled. Coffee? **When: Friday, December 17. Where: Whole Foods at 6th and Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905125**

PECHE BLUE SHIRT

Red-ish haired, wearing a blue shirt. Dinner with friends at a table behind me. I was at the bar in a drab jacket... Turned around and you were gone! :(**When: Thursday, December 16. Where: Pêche. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905124**

LA GLORIA?

We were looking at the same rental. The landlord said that Roy G. Biv used to live there. You said that your Swiss laxative was kicking in. All clear? **When: Thursday, December 16. Where: Pink Birdhouse. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905123**

MOZART'S

You: Sexy barista with a messiah complex. Me: Your last temptation. You came back from SLC a year ago. Don't be cross but I still want to nail you. **When: Wednesday, December 15. Where: Mozart's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905122**

LOST @ REPUBLIC

You have my Michael Kor handbag and want to return it for a reward. I lost it at The Republic on 5th and Lavaca(also known as Hudsons).Please Return. **When: Friday, November 5. Where: The Republic. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905121**

LUNCH DAILY GRILL

12/7. You were the dark haired beauty on a lunch date. I was wearing a burnt orange dress shirt. I noticed your warm smile. I'd love to have my chance! **When: Tuesday, December 7. Where: Daily Grill. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905120**

STACY TANGO

Hey there - I loved meeting you and now I'm trying desperately to find you. I'm Philipp... we walked to the bodega for a bottle of wine... **When: Saturday, December 11. Where: Tango Studio. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905119**

SANTA P.I.

I wanna hire you to do some investigative work on a missing person! Chatted by the door, but friends dragged me onward, never to see you again. Coffee?? -Tacky Elf **When: Saturday, December 11. Where: Kiss and Fly. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905118**

HAIKU- SUSHI AID

"Warren" ... thanks for ordering/reading our minds. I was the tech not the doctor, wouldnt mind hearing more about you, no pun intended. Beer and a burger? **When: Friday, December 10. Where: Haiku. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905117**

SOLD AT MOHAWK

You landed & took me in--great on the bass & soft on the eyes. Admired you from the crowd, thank you for the show. **When: Thursday, December 9. Where: The Mohawk. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905116**

SHY SMILE CENTRALMARKET

you:Handsome bearded, in navy sweater. me:blone with funny purse. We both admired the convertible VW van outside & I held the door for you. Would love dinner on the patio! **When: Saturday, December 11. Where: Central Market. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905115**



ENTER TO WIN! Place a **FREE PROFILE** on Lovers Lane with your photo before 5pm, Monday, January 3, and you could win **10 PASSES** to **GALAXY HIGHLAND 10!**

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